FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio, announced to all civilian airlines that all Iranian airspace will be considered an "exclusion zone" effective 1700 GMT on 19 March and that any air target that passes through will be liable to attack. This announcement follows Tehran and Baghdad radio reports of continued bombings of Iranian and Iraqi towns on 16 and 17 March. On 16 March Iran shelled Baghdad with a surface-to-surface missile, according to IRNA. However, INA reported the Baghdad explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car set off by "Iranian agents."

In ground fighting, IRNA asserted that over 12,000 Iraqi troops have been killed or wounded since the start of the Badr offensive on 11 March, while INA maintained that 15,000 Iranian troops were killed on 16 March alone. Iranian forces took control of the Hawr region east of the Tigris, according to an Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Nevertheless, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique contended that the Iranian offensive in this area collapsed, Baghdad radio said. The communique also reported an attack on two "large maritime targets" by Iraqi planes near Khark Island early on 17 March. Meanwhile, a Liberian-registered tanker was attacked by an Iranian plane near Halul Island on 17 March, Gulf shipping sources cited by AFP confirmed.

Gulf War Diplomacy

Iraqi Foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz, in a 16 March letter to the UN Security Council broadcast by Baghdad radio, called on the Security Council to adopt appropriate measures to reach a comprehensive solution to the Iran-Iraq war. Tariq 'Aziz called for an immediate end to all military operations and a withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders under UN auspices. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati departed for visits to Syria, Libya, and Algeria with messages from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, according to IRNA. These messages, along with those being delivered to other countries by Foreign Ministry officials, note concern over the latest developments in the war, the agency reported.

A 17 March GCC Ministerial Council meeting in Riyadh called for GCC efforts to end the Gulf war, SPA announced. At the meeting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir stated that GCC countries are responsible for maintaining security, the agency related.

Lebanon

Phalangists and Syria — Syrian forces in the Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah areas moved towards the demarcation lines and positions occupied by Samir Ja'ja' forces, according to Beirut radio. The movement of Syrian forces followed two 15 March warnings to Lebanese forces' "rebels" by Syria against "suspect moves," Radio Monte Carlo noted. Meanwhile, Lebanese Forces "Emergency committee" member Karim Baqraduni held a 17 March news conference, reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, to explain the position of the 12 March movement. Based on his communications with Syrian officials, Baqraduni said, there will be no Syrian "incursions" into "our areas." Baqraduni denied reports that the Phalangists' 12 March Movement is an Israeli movement and stressed that it is not a "coup attempt" against President Amin al-Jumayyil. Baqraduni asserted that the movement wants to bring about a "radical change" in Christian society and declared that "reformist and revolutionary" means will be used to achieve this.

Southern Lebanon — An IDF spokesman announced that two Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush near Jibshit on 17 March, Jerusalem radio revealed. Meanwhile, the radio also noted that the IDF began dismantling equipment in Jabal al-Baruk and the western sector "ahead of schedule."

Beirut Kidnappings — In an anonymous phone call the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the kidnappings of the ASSOCIATED PRESS director and two British citizens on 15 and 16 March, AFP disclosed. In a separate development, Voice of Lebanon revealed that Amal gunmen kidnapped a member of the Libyan People's Bureau in Beirut on 16 March.

Egypt-Jordan

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak departed for Amman on 18 March to continue coordination on the Middle East issue with Jordan's King Husayn, MENA reported.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo on 16 March after an 8-day tour which included talks with leaders of the United States, France, Britain, the FRG, and Italy, MENA reported. Asked about U.S. reaction to his Middle East proposal, Mubarak said the objective of the visit was to study the issue, not to get a "negative or positive" response, the agency noted.

Saudi Arabia

A YAR citizen was killed after he hijacked a Saudi Airlines plane during a flight from Jeddah to Kuwait on 17 March, according to a Defense Ministry statement broadcast by Riyadh radio.

Western Sahara

A Saharan Information Ministry statement, cited by Algiers radio, declared that it will impossible to maintain stability as long as Morocco continues to "violate SDAR borders." The statement added that King Hassan II's tour of southern Morocco proved the absence of Morocco's will to hold "direct negotiations" to resolve the Western Sahara issue.

Sudan

New Defense Minister — President Ja'far Numaryi issued a decree appointing General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab as defense minister and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, SUNA reported.

SPLA Operation — "Heavy fighting" continued on 15 March between Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces and government troops near Mongalla, the clandestine SPLA radio announced. The radio maintained that SPLA forces still control Mongalla garrison which they captured on 13 March and that government forces are "constantly retreating" towards Juba. A Sudanese military spokesman cited by SUNA denied reportsthat SPLA forces control Mongalla and declared that government troops are "in full control."

DRA-Pakistan

Pakistan lodged protests with the DRA charge d'affaires over three incidents of airspace violations and bombings by DRA aircraft on 14 and 16 March in the Arandu area, according to Karachi radio reports. Meanwhile, the DRA Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio, maintained that raids and armed provocations in the Barikowt area by Pakistani military forces have "intensified" recently and declared that these aggressions "must soon halt." Pakistan denied the DRA charges as "fictitious allegations," Karachi radio announced.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS
Middle East & Africa
Vol V No 052 18 March 1985

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Confers With USSR's Gorbachev 14 Mar *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1
'Arafat Returns to Tunis After Chernenko Funeral *[Tunis TAP]* ..... A 1
'Arafat Sends Message to Tanzanian President *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1
PLO's Al-Hasan Urges Saudi Initiative on Peace *[Hamburg DPA]* ..... A 1
Dissident Leader Abu Nidal 'Definitely Dead' *[AFP]* ..... A 1
Voice of PLO on VOA Relay Station in Israel *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GULF AFFAIRS

Iranian Plane Attacks Tanker in Gulf 17 Mar *[AFP]* ..... C 1
GCC Council of Ministers Meets in Riyadh 17 Mar ..... C 1
    Kuwaiti Minister on Gulf War *[SPA]* ..... C 1
    Mediating Gulf War *[SPA]* ..... C 1
    Meeting To Resume 18 Mar *[SPA]* ..... C 1

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Receives Iraqi Ambassador 16 Mar ..... C 2

KUWAIT

SFRY's Defense Minister To Visit in March ..... C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Hijacking of Airliner Ends; Hijacker Killed ..... C 2
    Dead Hijacker North Yemeni ..... C 2
Reportage on Visit of Turkish Prime Minister ..... C 2
    SPA Previews Visit ..... C 2
    Arrives 16 Mar ..... C 3
    Defense Minister Meets Counterpart ..... C 3
    Joint Talks Held ..... C 3
King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Session 15 Mar ..... C 3

UAE

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 15 Mar *[WAKH]* ..... C 4
    Meets Foreign Minister *[QNA]* ..... C 4
    Delivers Message to President *[WAKH]* ..... C 4
PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 15 Mar *[WAKH]* ..... C 4
    Departs Abu Dhabi 16 Mar *[WAKH]* ..... C 4

PDRY

Soviet Official Concludes Visit, Departs 15 Mar ..... C 5

YAR

- President Telephones Iraq's Saddam on Gulf War ..... C 5
- Prime Minister Returns From Moscow 15 Mar ..... C 5

EGYPT

- Mubarak on U.S. Reaction to Mideast Proposals ..... D 1
- President Husni Mubarak Visits Italy, FRG ..... D 1
- Mubarak Speaks With Iraq's President ..... D 1
- Mubarak Conveys Condolences at USSR Embassy ..... D 1
  - Envoy Praises Mubarak's Visit ..... D 2
- Delegation Returns From Chernenko Funeral ..... D 2
- Mubarak Leaves on Brief Visit to Amman ..... D 2
- 'Ali Interviewed on Israeli Attitude, U.S. Aid *[London AL-MAJALLAH 13-19 Mar]* ..... D 2
  - USSR Ties ..... D 4
- Al-Baz Interviewed on Relations With U.S. *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... D 4
- Opposition Leader Views U.S. Response to Mubarak ..... D 5
- Consultative Council Supports Mubarak Peace Efforts ..... D 5

IRAQ

- Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran ..... E 1
  - Communique No 1,771 ..... E 1
  - Spokesman on Raids ..... E 1
  - Source Denies Aircraft Downed ..... E 1
  - Commanders on Al-Baydah Battle ..... E 2
  - Communique No 1,772 ..... E 2
  - Commander on Tigris Battles ..... E 3
  - 15,000 Iranians Claimed Killed ..... E 3
  - Commanders on Counterattack ..... E 3
  - Iranian Airspace Prohibited Zone ..... E 4
  - Communique No 1,773 ..... E 4
  - Commander on Helicopters' Missions ..... E 5
  - Correspondents Leave for Front ..... E 5
  - Presidential Guard Commander Comments ..... E 5
  - Shelling of Basra Continues ..... E 5
  - Communique No 1,774 ..... E 5
  - President Told of 'Victory' ..... E 6
  - Marches, Demonstrations Mark 'Victory' ..... E 6
  - Defense Minister Cables Saddam ..... E 6
  - General Shanshal Congratulates President ..... E 7
  - 5 Iranian Cities Raided ..... E 7
  - Loss of Plane Denied ..... E 7
- Papers Comment on New Iranian Defeats in War ..... E 7
- Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in Baghdad ..... E 8
- 'Aziz Letter to UN Calls for Immediate Cease-fire ..... E 8
- Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Visit to France, Italy ..... E 8
- Saddam Husayn Congratulates Mikhail Gorbachev ..... E 9
- Saddam Receives Call From Egypt's Mubarak ..... E 9
- Saddam Husayn Receives Algerian Envoy, Message ..... E 9
- Saddam Husayn Reassures 'Arafat on War Situation ..... E 9
- Sudanese Minister, Delegation Depart Baghdad ..... E 9
- PRC Minister Discusses Agricultural Cooperation ..... E 9
  - Talks With Trade Minister ..... E 9
- Cuban Minister Farah Arrives in Baghdad ..... E 9
- Indian Official Arrives for Talks on Gulf War ..... E 9

JORDAN

- Husayn Contacts Iraq's President Saddam on War ... F 1
- Husayn Urges Arab Leaders To Support Iraq ... F 1
- Mubarak Arrives To Brief Husayn on Trip Results ... F 1
    - 'Expanded Meeting' Held ... F 1
- Husayn Says U.S. Must Meet With Joint Delegation ... F 1
- Foreign Minister Al-Masri on PLO Agreement *[Manama WAKH]* ... F 2
- King Husayn Receives Djibouti Industry Minister ... F 2
    - Minutes on Cooperation Signed ... F 2

LEBANON

- Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Kidnappings ... G 1
- Amal Gunmen Kidnap Libyan Diplomat in W. Beirut *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 1
- Khaddam Informs Al-Jumayyil of Syria's Support *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 1
- Prime Minister Karami on Phalangist Dispute ... G 1
- Lebanese Forces 'Source' Answers Karami, Al-Huss *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ... G 2
- Karamah Addresses Phalange Political Bureau *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 2
- Junblatt Vows To 'Break Necks' of Phalangists *[Voice of the Mountain]* ... G 4
- Reportage on Lebanese Forces Emergency Committee ... G 4
    - Emergency Committee Issues Statement *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 4
    - Abu Nadir Chairs Meeting *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 4
    - Khaddam Declines Meeting Delegation ... G 4
    - Baqraduni News Conference *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 5
- Reportage on Syrian Moves Into Lebanon ... G 6
    - KUNA: Syrians Moving South ... G 6
    - Talas Affirms Syrian Moves *[Voice of Lebanon]* ... G 6
    - Movement in Al-Batrun, Al-Kurah ... G 6
    - 'Large' Units, Tanks Observed *[Voice of Arab Lebanon]* ... G 7
- Ja‘ja‘ Group Reportedly Ready To Confront Syria *[Voice of Arab Lebanon]* ... G 7

SYRIA

- Former Lebanese President Franjiyah Visits Damascus ... H 1
    - Received by Al-Asad ... H 1
    - Al-Asad Holds Banquet ... H 1
    - Talks With Al-Asad ... H 1
    - Meets With Birri, Junblatt ... H 1
    - Departs Damascus ... H 1
- Talas Confirms Military Move in Lebanon *[Paris Radio Monte Cartlo]* ... H 2
- Talas Interviewed on Revolution Anniversary *[TISHRIN 8 Mar]* ... H 2
- Construction Minister Returns From Soviet Union ... H 3
- Ba‘th Officials Receive Bulgarian CP Delegation ... H 3
    - Regional Command Member ... H 3
    - Inspection Committee Chairman ... H 3
- Commentary Views Results of Mubarak's U.S. Visit ... H 4
- Ba‘th Party Issues Memo on Israeli Actions in Lebanon ... H 4

ISRAEL

- Military Leaders Interviewed on IDF Withdrawal ... I 1
    - Defense Minister Rabin *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 15 Mar]* ... I 1
    - Chief of Staff Levi ... I 3
- Leaders Reject Security Strip in S. Lebanon ... I 4
    - Peres, Rabin *[HA'ARETZ 18 Mar]* ... I 4
    - Rabin Warns About 'Fantasizing' ... I 5
    - 'Senior Military Sources' ... I 5
- Eviction of Shi‘ites From Security Strip Denied ... I 5
- Sharon Addresses Commerce Club on Lebanon ... I 5

  Comments on Security Strip ..... I 6
Cabinet Discusses Settlements, Economic Issues ..... I 6
  Ya'aqobi Comments on Session ..... I 7
Involvement With Christian Rebels in Lebanon Denied ..... I 7
IDF Dismantling Equipment 'Ahead of Schedule' ..... I 7
Two IDF Soldiers Killed, Five Wounded in S. Lebanon ..... I 7
'Thousands' Attend Peace Now Demonstration ..... I 7
Kimche Details Ghali Meeting, Events in Lebanon ..... I 7
Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Discusses Tabah Issue ..... I 8
'Persuasive Arguments' for Tabah Ownership Claimed *[MA'ARIV 17 Mar]* ..... I 8
Editorial Analyzes Mubarak's U.S. Visit *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Mar]* ..... I 8
Shamir Sees No 'Special Importance' to Murphy Visit ..... I 9
'Lack of Enthusiasm' Seen for Murphy's Visit *['AL HAMISHMAR 17 Mar]* ..... I 9
Agreement on Free Trade Zone With U.S. Reached ..... I 9
Peres Stresses Jerusalem Not To Be Divided Again ..... I 9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers ..... Q 1
Algiers Notes Arrival of Foreign Dignitaries ..... Q 1

LIBYA

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli 16 Mar ..... Q 1
  Received by Jallud ..... Q 1
  Delivers Khomeyni Message ..... Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Congratulations to Gorbachev ..... Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Says U.S. Humiliates Arab Rulers ..... Q 1
'Pan-Arab Command' To Meet in Tripoli 28 Mar ..... Q 2

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Returns From Moscow 13 Mar ..... Q 2

SUDAN

Numayri Appoints New Army Commander, Others ..... Q 2
Vice President Al-Tayyib Leaves for United States ..... Q 2
Vice President Lague Confers With Soviet Ambassador ..... Q 3
Official Spokesman Denies Loss of Mongalla ..... Q 3
SPLA Radio: 'Remnants' Retreating From Mongalla ..... Q 3
  Mongalla Battle Detailed *[Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army]* ..... Q 3

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers Notes Saharan Condemnation of Morocco ..... Q 3
SDAR Official Condemns Hassan Position on Referendum *[APS]* ..... Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Aid Agreement Signed With Soviet Union ..... R 1
Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit to France *[cross-reference]* ..... R 1
SALF, EPLF Leaders Discuss Links, Cooperation *[Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts]* ..... R 1
TPLF Claims 360 Government Soldiers Killed in Tigray *[Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts]* R 1
Briefs: Incoming, Outgoing Envoys ..... R 1

SOMALIA

SRSP Political Committee Orders Officials' Retirement .... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Biya Receives New PRC, Italian Ambassadors .... S 1

CHAD

Habre Continues First Visit to Southern Region .... S 1

ZAIRE

President Mobutu To Visit Egypt 24-27 March .... S 1
Briefs: New Envoy From Greece .... S 1

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA

Sankara Receives Algerian Foreign Minister .... T 1

GHANA

Burkinabe Troops Arrive for Military Exercise *[Ouagadougou]* .... T 1
Outgoing Envoys Call on PNDC Chairman .... T 1

GUINEA

Soviet Trade Union Delegation Arrives in Conakry .... T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Foreign Minister Semedo Visits Portugal *[cross-reference]* .... T 1

LIBERIA

Doe Announces Appointments to Government Posts .... T 1
Money Not Available To Complete Voter Registration .... T 2
Briefs: Outgoing Envoy From Morocco .... T 2

MALI

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit .... T 2
    Meets With Traore .... T 2
Talks Held With Palestinian Delegation .... T 3

NIGERIA

Delegation To Attend OPEC Meeting in Geneva .... T 3
Hungarian Ambassador Cites Aid to Country .... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Meets With Gorbachev in Moscow .... U 1

Returns 15 Mar .... U 1
Interior Minister To Meet Crocker in Cape Verde .... U 1
Van Dunem on Southern Africa, Ties With USSR .... U 1

BOTSWANA

Masire Says RSA Threat Taken Seriously .... U 1

COMOROS

3 Killed, Opposition Leader Arrested in Coup Attempt .... U 2
President Plays Down Attempt *[Paris]* .... U 2

LESOTHO

Jonathan Meets Soviet Peace Committee Delegation .... U 3
New Party Advocates Diplomatic Ties With RSA *[SAPA]* .... U 3
Maseru on Anniversary of Nkomati Accord .... U 3

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Sends Congratulations to Gorbachev .... U 4
Chissano Sees MNR Sabotage as 'Vain Attempts' *[PANA]* .... U 5
Maputo Cites R.F. Botha Statement on MNR Connections .... U 5
Renamo Denies Allegations Made by R.F. Botha *[Johannesburg]* .... U 5

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha on Military Intervention in Mozambique .... U 5
R.F. Botha Comments on Financing of Renamo .... U 6
Counterfeiting in Johannesburg .... U 6
Involvement in Smuggling .... U 7
Renamo Activities Spreading *[Umtata]* .... U 7
Top-Level Talks Held With Botswana on ANC *[Umtata]* .... U 7
Heunis Calls for Unity in Face of Threats .... U 7
Viljoen Cites Blacks' Resistance to Change .... U 8

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Says Assassination Plot Foiled *[THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 18 Mar]* .... U 8

ZIMBABWE

Diplomatic Ties Established With Argentina .... U 8
Government Considers Giving More Power to Chiefs .... U 8
President Returns From Chernenko Funeral .... U 8
Kangai Calls on Youths To Work Closely With Police .... U 8
ZANU-PF Officials Deplore Opposition Tactics .... U 9

'Arafat Confers With USSR's Gorbachev 14 Mar

JN151644 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with new Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow yesterday. Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting they reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. Our correspondent has also learned that brother leader Abu 'Ammar expressed his appreciation for the firm and principled Soviet stand and said that the Soviet stand stems from the strategic relations between the Palestinian people and their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, and the USSR.

The Soviet president reiterated his country's support for the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He asserted that his country will remain a friend and strong supporter of the Palestinian people and their just cause.

'Arafat Returns to Tunis After Chernenko Funeral

LD151342 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 15 Mar (TAP) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday evening returned to Tunis after attending the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, the late Soviet President. Yesterday noon, 'Arafat met with the vice president of Bangladesh in the presence of Abu al-Lutf and Jawad al-Ghusayni, members of the PLO Executive Committee. Discussions during the meeting covered the Iraqi-Iranian war and the efforts needed to halt it. The Bangladesh vice president invited 'Arafat to visit Bangladesh.

'Arafat Sends Message to Tanzanian President

JN151700 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a message to Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, chairman of the OAU, on the developments in the Middle East. Brother Salman al-Hirfi, brother leader Abu 'Ammar's adviser for African affairs, conveyed the message during his meeting with the Tanzanian president in The Hague today.

PLO's Al-Hasan Urges Saudi Initiative on Peace

LD161516 Hamburg DPA in German 1407 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Bonn, 16 Mar (DPA) — In the view of PLO foreign affairs expert Khalid al-Hasan, Saudi Arabia should assume the role of leader in implementing the joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace initiative. Al-Hasan said on Saturday in a DPA interview in St Augustin near Bonn that Saudi Arabia possessed the means necessary to convince the United States and other Western states that the initiative of King Husayn and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is the last possibility for a negotiated peace with Israel.

At a symposium on the Middle East at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Al-Hasan, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Palestine National Council, strongly warned the United States and Western European governments against standing idly by when the proposals are again in danger of falling through as a result of Israel's stance. The offer of peace negotiations within the framework of a Middle East conference with the goal of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is the maximum concession that can be made. "We cannot go any further," he said. "If this fails, the pendulum will swing in the other direction." In Al-Hasan's view, after the "rebuff" suffered by President Mubarak in Washington, only Saudi Arabia is in a position to spell out to the West the urgency of a Middle East solution on the basis of the Husayn-'Arafat initiative. It would be best if King Fahd is first able to bring about the long-planned Arab summit conference.

Dissident Leader Abu Nidal 'Definitely Dead'

NC161416 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, March 16 [AFP] — Extremist Palestinian dissident leader Abu Nidal is "definitely dead" and a man purporting to be him, who was interviewed by a French magazine reporter recently, was in fact his second-in-command, a top French police official was today quoted as saying. The official was described by the left-of-centre *NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR* magazine as a "super-cop playing a key role in France's fight against terrorism" who could not be identified for security reasons. The magazine quoted him as saying that the Israelis had found that Abu Nidal had died of an illness in Czechoslovakia last September. The group led by Abu Nidal, the nom de guerre of Sabri al-Banna, has claimed responsibility for the murder of several top Palestinians loyal to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The man interviewed recently by Lucien Bitterlin, pro-Palestinian editor of the magazine *FRANCE-PAYS ARABES* (France-Arab World), and described in the article as Abu Nidal, was in fact Abu Nidal's deputy, the Israelis were said to have reported. "I have every reason to believe that," the official said, without explaining why. Mr Bitterlin said he had interviewed Abu Nidal in early February in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley His account was challenged by another French magazine, *AFRIQUE-ASIE* (Africa-Asia), which said that Abu Nidal could only have been in Eastern Europe, receiving hospital treatment, at the time of the interview.

Voice of PLO on VOA Relay Station in Israel

JN171947 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1557 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, Voice of America is the U.S. Government's official radio station directed to the outside world. This radio station was established in 1942. The VOA Arabic section began its programs to the Arab world in 1950. Despite the VOA's great technical capabilities, which can transmit programs via satellite from Washington directly, the number of its listeners is small compared with other foreign radio stations, such as Radio Monte Carlo and the BBC, which have relay stations in Cyprus.

Recently, the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government agreed to establish a VOA relay station in Israel directed, it has been said, toward the USSR. However, the information available to us from informed U.S. circles reveals that the proposed relay stationin Israel is aimed at enhancing the transmission of the VOA Arabic section with the condition that the Zionist enemy can use it to transmit its progrrams to the entire Arab world.

Much evidence has emerged to confirm this information revealed by U.S. sources close to the VOA. Mrs (Diana Concklin), a senior official at the VOA public relations bureau, stressed on 7 March 1985 that an Israeli diplomatic delegation visited VOA and met with its officials and employees and held talks with (Nakin Gafi), director of the Middle East section, and Salman Hilmi, director of the VOA Arabic section. The two sides agreed to continue to provide Israel radio with radio reports and programs. The VOA Arabic section was entrusted with providing them to Israel radio. The two sides also agreed to facilitate the travel of Israeli broadcasters to work in the VOA Arabic section. In this regard, we must point out that there is an Israeli broadcaster in the VOA Arabic section. He is able to work for this radio in accordance with a recommendation by officials in VOA. In addition to this, some of the supervisors of the VOA Arabic section seek to normalize relations with the Israeli enemy radio and to use other Israeli broadcasters in VOA.

The director of the VOA Arabic section, Salman Hilmi, is considered the most enthusiastic about this concept. Our information says that he does not pay attention to the tense situation concerning some Arab workers in VOA. These employees had reservations toward and rejected the ideas of the director of the VOA Arabic section. Charles Beck, director of the U.S. Information Agency, which supervises the U.S. Government's news media, including VOA, has pointed out that his agency seeks to modernize VOA in order to spread its transmission overseas. He added that a billion dollars was allocated to achieve this objective. This modernization program includes the establishment of a relay station for the VOA Arabic section. After establishing this program, the VOA will increase its Arabic transmission to 9 hours daily as of 1 April 1985. USIA reports say that the Golan Heights is the best place for establishing relay stations because the altitude above sea level helps spread sound waves a very long distance. If we realize that sophisticated technology will be provided for this, we can realize the serious consequences of establishing this relay station to peddle U.S. propaganda and its exploitation by Israel in the interest of Israeli propaganda.

What, then, is the purpose of this relay station? As a result of U.S. policy in the Arab region and its hostility toward the Arab peoples and their fateful issues, the continuous U.S. support for Israel, and its signing of the strategic alliance agreement with the enemy government, Washington seeks to establish a form of credibility in the Arab region by peddling its policy. This time this will be achieved through a strong radio that transmits its programs from Israel so that the VOA will be able to conceal the real hostility of the United States toward the Arab and their issues.

GULF AFFAIRS

Iranian Plane Attacks Tanker in Gulf 17 Mar

NC171057 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, March 17 (AFP) — A Liberian-registered tanker was attacked by an Iranian plane and its captain injured in the southern Gulf today, according to Gulf shipping sources.

The sources said the captain of the 236,000-ton *Caribbean Breeze* had sustained serious arm injuries during the attack on the vessel. No other injuries were reported, and the extent of damage to the *Caribbean Breeze* was not immediately reported. A fire aboard the ship was put out by 0715 GMT, the sources said, adding that two U.S. warships helped in the rescue operation. The captain was evacuated by a U.S. helicopter.

The ship was loaded with Kuwaiti crude oil when it was attacked 15 miles (24 kilometres) north of Halul Island, situated 85 kilometres (53 miles) east of Qatar, the sources said.

One hour before sending a distress signal at 0600 GMT, *Caribbean Breeze* had reported being followed by an Iranian reconnaissance plane, the sources said. The plane circled over it for an hour before a fighter carried out the attack. The Kuwaiti News Agency KUNA said the ship had been chartered by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

GCC Council of Ministers Meets in Riyadh 17 Mar

Kuwaiti Minister on Gulf War

LD171733 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1542 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) — The GCC council of ministers commenced this evening the work of its 14th session at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh with the attendance of the GCC foreign ministers

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting in which he expressed his gratitude for the holding of the 14th session of the council of ministers. Shaykh Sabah asked God to guide the participants to find solutions to the current grave problems.

He said that, since the fifth summit in Kuwait, the region has witnessed serious repercussions in the security and stability of the region, especially the Iraq-Iran war which has entered a dangerous stage of striking economic institutions and civilian positions. He called for more efforts to stop the Iraq-Iran war and to put an end to the strikes against cities and civilians. He stressed the necessity of the sincere work with the Islamic Conference Organization and with the nonaligned group and with friendly countries in order to find a solution for stopping this destructive war which has exhausted the two neighboring Muslim peoples.

He said that GCC members are responsible for removing the dangers which threaten security and peace and for blocking the influence of the superpowers in the region.

Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir added that the developments in the entire region give the meetings of the 14th session of the council of ministers a special importance. He expressed the hope that the session will bring about the desired results.

He pointed out that the agenda of the meetings includes important issues concerning cooperation among the GCC countries, especially in the economic sector. He stated it is important that the march of the GCC should reach the highest levels. He asked God to guide everybody and to help them and to fulfill what they aspire for in blessings, stability and peace. The closed session then commenced.

Mediating Gulf War

LD171906 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1732 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that the convocation of the 4th GCC ministerial council session at the present time acquires an importance due to the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war.

His highness said that GCC members are disturbed by this serious escalation in which the the number of casualties is increasing. He added that the Islamic blood being shed should be in the same trench facing the ememy.

His highness explained that the ministerial council will do its best and contribute to ending the war, stressing that the main objective of the council is to reach a speedy end to this protracted war. He expressed his hope that the council will arrive, through consultation and the exchange of views, at a concensus on the means to bring about peace. He also expressed his hope that Iran, alongside its sister Iraq, will respond to all efforts and mediations, noting that Iraq has always responded to all the efforts exerted, which pleases everybody.

His highness explained that the only ones to be harmed by this war are the two fraternal Muslim countries of Iraq and Iran, pointing out that the adverse consequences of this war will be reflected, naturally, on the countries of the region and the Arab and Islamic nation in general.

Meeting To Resume 18 Mar

LD172145 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2033 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The GCC ministers of foreign affairs this evening ended their first working session. Their second working session will be held tomorrow, Monday, in order to go through all the issues on the agenda.

After the session, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, made a statement in which he said that in today's session many subjects on the agenda of the ministers' meeting were discussed, particularly the war between Iraq and Iran.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Receives Iraqi Ambassador 16 Mar

GF161640 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 16 Mar (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah received Iraqi Ambassador to Bahrain Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani here today. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and current developments in the Gulf region, especially the Iran-Iraq war, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

KUWAIT

SFRY's Defense Minister To Visit in March

LD181214 Kuwait KUNA in English 1130 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 18 (KUNA) — Yugoslav Defense Minister Admiral Branko Mamula will visit Kuwait late in March in response to an invitation by his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, according to a local daily Monday.

Daily *AL-'ANBA* added that Mamula will hold talks with Shaykh Salim on military cooperation between the two countries and the possibility of Kuwait's purchase of Yugoslav weapons in addition to tackling the Middle East situation.

The Yugoslav minister was on a visit to Libya last week, during which he held talks with senior Libyan military officials on developing military relations between Libya and Yugoslavia. The two countries share strong cooperation in military fields, particularly in training Libyan military personnel.

SAUDI ARABIA

Hijacking of Airliner Ends; Hijacker Killed

LD171858 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] A statement from the Ministry of Defense and Aviation: As a Boeing-737 aircraft of the Saudi Arabian Airlines — Flight No 208 from Jeddah to Kuwait via Riyadh, which left Jiddah at 2:00 pm today [1100 GMT] carrying 76 passengers of various nationalities in addition to 21 crew members — was nearing Riyadh at 2:50 pm today, the pilot reported that the aircraft had been hijacked by an unknown person, who insisted that the aircraft be directed to a destination different from its original course.

The pilot of the hijacked aircraft told the hijacker that they would have to land in Dhahran Airport to refuel before being able to continue the journey. The aircraft landed at Dhahran International Airport at 3:42 pm today to refuel. The passengers left the plane unharmed, thanks be to God.

The hijacker was carrying a hand grenade. A number of attempts were made to negotiate with him but these attempts failed. When the hijacker used the grenade, the aircraft's security guards were able to shoot him dead. [as heard]

The aircraft, which suffered slight damage, was then taken over. [as heard] The Saudi authorities took all the necessary measures to guarantee the safety of the passengers. Saudi Arabian Airlines also made the necessary arrangements for that passengers to continue their journey.

We ask God to keep this country secure and stable, and to protect it from the evil of those who hate. He listens and answers.

Dead Hijacker North Yemeni

LD172125 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has announced that the airliner hijacker whose evil attempt was foiled this afternoon was Ahmad 'Alawi (al-Muqbili), born in 1962 in North Yemen.

Reportage on Visit of Turkish Prime Minister

SPA Previews Visit

LD151614 Riyadh SPA in English 1214 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, March 15 SPA — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal will arrive here tomorrow on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard.

The visit reflects the desire of the two countries to boost their existing cooperation in various fields and coordinate their political and economic stance on mutual concerns.

Ozal's talks with Saudi officials will also concentrate on Arab and Islamic issues, mainly the Middle East situation and ways to bring about a just and lasting solution to the Palestine cause, the Lebanese crisis and its negative impact on the Iran-Iraq war.

The Saudi-Turkish relations are strong and ever-growing in various spheres for the benefit of both countries and the whole Arab and Islamic world as well. During his visit to Turkey last year Crown Prince 'Abdallah described the Turkish-Saudi relations as strong and vital based on the principles of divine faith.

Ozal is a distinguished statesman and considered the engineer of economic development in Turkey during 1980-82 when he introduced an austerity policy based on boosting exports to the whole world in general and the Arab and Islamic world in particular. Ozal enjoys the respect of the Turkish people, and his country has a firm stand on the just Palestine cause.

He also had stressed that Turkey could play much bigger role in ending the Iran-Iraq war due to its good relations with the two warring countries.

Ozal said his country had boosted its ties with the Arab and Muslim world because Ankara has financial and economic interests in the Middle East area. Turkey should be the bridge between the Arab and Islamic world on one hand and Europe countries on the other in its capacity as the geographic gate between the two regions, Ozal said.

Arrives 16 Mar

LD161611 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1531 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 16 Mar (SPA) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived at King Khalid International Airport at 1715 hours (local) this evening on a 3-day visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy premier, and commander of the National Guard.

The accompany delegation includes: Vahit Halefoglu, the foreign minister; Zeki Yavuzturk, minister of national defense; Safa Giray, minister of public works and resettlement; Mustafa Kalemi, minister of labor and social securities; and a number of Turkish MP's.

Defense Minister Meets Counterpart

LD170848 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0813 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, met with Turkish Minister of National Defense Zeki Yavuzturk who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom accompanying Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Relations between the Kingdom and Turkey in the military sphere were discussed during the meeting which was attended by Chief of the General Staff General Muhammad Sulih al-Hamad.

Joint Talks Held

LD171538 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this afternoon received at his residence outside the town of Riyadh his Excellency Turgut Ozal, the Turkish prime minister. His majesty the king and his excellency the Turkish prime minister chaired the Saudi-Turkish talks which were attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Mit'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of public works and housing; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh District; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Muhammad al-Fayiz, the minister of labor and social affairs; Dr Sulayman al-Sulaym, the minister of commerce; and by Salih al-Suqayr, the Saudi ambassador to Turkey.

On the Turkish side, they were attended by Vahit Halefoglu, the foreign minister; Zeki Yavuzturk, the minister of national defense; Safa Giray, the minister of public works and resettlement; Mustafa Kalemi, the minister of labor and social security; and by the Turkish ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

His excellency the Turkish prime minister and the acccompanying delegation lunched with his majesty the king.

Before noon today the Turkish prime minister called on His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy premier, and commander of the National Guard, at the royal court.

The crown prince and the Turkish prime minister held a meeting attended on the Saudi side by Prince Mit'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of public works and housing; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Muhammad aba al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy; Dr Sulayman al-Sulaym, the minister of commerce; Muhammad al-Fayiz, the minister of labor and social affairs; and by Salih al-Suqayr, the Saudi ambassador to Turkey.

On the Turkish side, the talks were attended by Zeki Yavuztruk, the minister of national defense; Vahit Halefoglu; the foreign minister; Safa Giray, the minister of public works and resettlement; Mustafa Kalemi, the minister of social security and labor; and by Umut Arik, the Turkish ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

International issues and bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them were reviewed at this meeting.

King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Session 15 Mar

GF160540 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the Cabinet session yesterday evening at his residence outside Riyadh. After the session Ibrahim al-'Anqari, minister of municipal and rural affairs and acting information minister, told SPA and radio and television correspondents:

The Cabinet discussed the report presented by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy which was referred to the cabinet's general committee last week to discuss the bases and foundations proposed. After a lengthy discussion of the general committee's findings, the honorable Cabinet approved the following decisions:

1. Continued attention to the implementation and improvement of development programs which directly touch general services. His majesty the king is always keen to seriously and practically carry out these programs in order to positively affect the life of all citizens.

2. Fulfilling the principle of balancing the budget to maintain social and economic growth in the Kingdom.

3. Rationing consumption expenses to improve services and expand production.

The acting information minister said: The Cabinet carefully reviewed the war which is now raging between Iraq and Iran in which blood is being shed and lives wasted. The Cabinet appealed to the two fraternal Muslim countries to halt this devastating war, which only plays into the hands of the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

The Cabinet also listened to a report on the fighting currently taking place between various groups in Lebanon. It expressed concern over what is going on in that fraternal country. While appealing to all groups in Lebanon to be ruled by reason, the Cabinet emphasized that Lebanon's safety, freedom, and security cannot be ensured unless its people unite through love, amity, and reconcilation against plots and against the enemy that is working against its independence and stability.

The acting information minister concluded his statement saying: The Cabinet studied other reports on the agenda and adopted the necessary decisions on them.

UAE

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 15 Mar

GF151402 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Mar (WAKH) — 'Ali 'Arab, envoy of the Iranian president and assistant to the foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi today for several days' visit to the UAE.

WAM has reported that the Iranian official is carrying a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan pertaining to bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Meets Foreign Minister

GF161405 Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Mar (QNA) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, received a oral message from 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister, dealing with the development of the Iraq-Iran war, especially the recent escalation of attacks against cities. The message was conveyed by Mohammad 'Ali 'Arab, deputy foreign minister and envoy of the Iranian president, during a meeting with Rashid 'Abdallah this afternoon.

Following the meeting, the Iranian envoy stated that he briefed Rashid 'Abdallah on the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war, especially his country's stand toward attacks on cities. In a statement to the press, he announced Iran's readiness to stop attacks on cities if Iraq adheres to the same. He said that he is carrying a written message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the development of the Iraq-Iran war and bilateral relations. The Iranian envoy arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday on a 2-day visit to the UAE.

Delivers Message to President

GF170710 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 16 Mar (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the situation in the region and its recent developments. The message was delivered by Mohammad 'Arab, envoy of the Iranian president and deputy foreign minister, during Shaykh Zayid's meeting with him in Al-'Ayn today.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the UAE president's court; and Bahman Na'imi (?Arfa'), Iranian charge d'affaires in the UAE.

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 15 Mar

GF151504 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 15 Mar (WAKH) — PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali arrived in Al-Shariqah today on a 2-day visit to the UAE. The Yemeni minister carries with him a message from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Upon arrival he was received by a number of officials at the UAE Foreign Ministry.

Dr al-Dali stated his visit to the UAE falls within the framework of fraternal visits between the UAE and the PDRY in order to exchange views on matters pertaining to bilateral relations, regional issues and Arab issues in general. He said he would hold talks with a number of UAE officials on means of reinforcing cooperation between the two countries.

Commenting on the recent escalation in the Iraq-Iran war, he said: "It is extremely painful and regretful to have matters reach this point of escalation." He pointed out that the imminent outcome of such a war is the total destruction of the interests of the two peoples and the unjust deaths of thousands of victims. He indicated that this serves the enemies of the Arab and Islamic peoples and undermines the security and stability of the region. He called [words indistinct] to the calls to halt the war and to resort to negotiations and to peaceful solutions.

Dr al-Dali stressed in his statement that wagering on U.S. solutions of the Palestinian issue is futile. He called for adherence to the resolutions of the Arab Fes summit and for holding an international conference as a prelude to solving the issue.

Departs Abu Dhabi 16 Mar

GF161758 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Mar (WAKH) — PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali left here today following a two-day visit to the UAE. During his stay, the Yemeni minister handed the UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan a written message from Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad dealing with bilateral relations and current Arab and international situation.

PDRY

Soviet Official Concludes Visit, Departs 15 Mar

GF151910 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The delegation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With the Peoples of Asia and Africa led by Comrade Karpov, member of the committee Presidium and deputy chairman of the Academy of Social Sciences of the CPSU Central Committee [name and title as heard], left Aden today. During its visit to the PDRY lasting several days the Soviet delegation held discussions with officials at the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity.

Prior to departing Aden airport, Comrade Karpov made a statement to ANA in which he expressed satisfaction over the results of his visit which was aimed at strengthening friendship and cooperation ties between the Soviet solidarity committee and the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity and efforts in the struggle against imperialism. He also expressed satisfaction over the PDRY's achievements in various fields.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Ali Salih 'Ubayd, deputy chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity, and a number of other officials of the council.

YAR

President Telephones Iraq's Saddam on Gulf War

GF152030 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

SABA' learned that the Iraqi president apprised the brother leader and the secretary general of the General People's Congress during the telephone call of the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, particularly during the past 5 days. The Iraqi president assured the president leader of the steadfastness of the Iraqi Army and people in confrontation of Iranian aggression and their firmness in the defense of the Arab Iraqi territories.

The brother leader and the secretary general of the General People's Congress lauded the general positions of Iraq in every respect, particularly the repeated Iraqi announcement of its positive response to all international and Islamic mediations in order to halt this war which benefits no one and devastates the capabilities of the Muslim peoples of Iraq and Iran.

Prime Minister Returns From Moscow 15 Mar

GF151804 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, returned to Sanaa early today after leading our country's delegation and taking part alongside the Soviet leadership and people in the funeral of late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

In a statement to SABA', the brother prime minister and member of the Standing Committee said that during his visit to Moscow he conveyed the greetings and the congratulations of the brother leader and the secretary general [of the General People's Congress] to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani said that he met with Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The results of the meeting were good. He pointed out that he conveyed to the Soviet chairman of the Council of Ministers a message from Brother leader and Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He also conveyed the greetings and the good wishes of the brother leader to the Soviet leaders. The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers indicated that the talks he held with his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Tikhonov also revolved around the good relations between the two friendly countries in various fields. Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani added that he felt that the Soviet Union understands, appreciates, and desires to develop advanced bilateral relations.

Concluding his statement, he expressed his gratitude and that of his accompanying delegation for all the friendly feelings accorded to him during his visit to Moscow.

Mubarak on U.S. Reaction to Mideast Proposals

NC162017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak arrived in Cairo tonight after an 8-day tour, which included France, the United States, Britain, the FRG, and Italy.

Answering reporters' questions about U.S. reaction to his proposals, President Mubarak pointed out that his ideas concern several states, including Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel, and that the United States is entitled to study the subject. We cannot say that U.S. reaction was negative or positive.

He added: We did not go to the United States to obtain a negative or positive response. Our objective was to study the issue and see what can be done. We are contributing to pushing forward the peace process. [passage indistinct]

Answering a question about a deadline for the United States to give momentum to the peace efforts, President Mubarak said: We are dealing with a major power and it would make no sense to say: If you don't act within a week, I'll have nothing more to do with you. This is a political issue. We must give and take; we must persuade and seek agreement. The United States is a friendly country and we are asking it to help accelerate the peace process.

Regarding European reaction to the Egyptian initiative and to Mubarak's talks in the United States, President Mubarak said: I also went to Europe. We talked matters over and we exchanged views. We must continue working together on this matter. At any rate, the Europeans have been receptive. To be clear, I think that everyone has been receptive to the Egyptian point of view.

President Mubarak was asked whether his disappointing visit to the United States will affect the peace process. His excellency answered: Why do you assume that my visit was disappointing? From where did you get this idea? I can't say so and I can't support this allegation. I didn't go there to seek any decisions, but to explain our ideas and exchange views with the U.S. Administration to discover a way to deal with the 11 February agreement and whether it can be utilized to maintain the momentum of the peace process.

President Mubarak added: We exchanged views and my ideas were not rejected. I asked them to study our ideas for the sake of maintaining the momentum and I believe they are now studying these ideas. I don't think that they will respond positively in 1 or 2 days because this needs discussion.

Asked about Egypt's next step, President Mubarak said: I believe that it would be better not to say anything until the first step is completed, after which we will move on to the next step.

Asked if the Americans proposed any alternative and whether they had their own special views, his excellency said: We discussed our alternatives and ideas. We proposed several ideas. I don't believe that anyone can find other alternatives to those that I have proposed.

Mubarak was asked: Dr al-Baz stated that you will present other alternatives to the United States in case it rejects your proposals.

The president said: Please ask Dr al-Baz if he has any other alternatives.

President Husni Mubarak Visits Italy, FRG

For Rome, Cairo, and DPA coverage of the visit to Italy and the FRG by President Husni Mubarak, including his meetings with Italian and West German leaders, see the Italy and Federal Republic of Germany sections of the 18 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Mubarak Speaks With Iraq's President

NC162146 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn spoke over the phone tonight. They exchanged views on the most important regional issues and on President Mubarak's visit to the United States and Europe.

Mubarak Conveys Condolences at USSR Embassy

NC171203 Cairo MENA in English 1120 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, March 17 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today visited the Soviet Embassy where he extended his condolences on the death of late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. The president was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

The president was welcomed on arrival by Soviet ambassador here Aleksandr Belonogov and senior embassy officials. The president later had [a] meeting with the ambassador which was attended by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and the Soviet minister plenipotentiary Mikhail Tsvigun.

Following his visit to the embassy, President Mubarak was asked by reporters whether he briefed the Soviet ambassador on the outcome of his talks during his just-concluded tour of the United States and Europe. The president replied that he came to the embassy to extend his condolences and that he talked with the Soviet ambassador on the future of Egyptian-Soviet relations. President Mubarak reminded the reporters that the Soviet Union is a super-power and that relations between Cairo and Moscow are good.

Asked whether there is a chance for further improvement of relations, President Mubarak repeated that they are already good. He said his meeting with the Soviet ambassador lasted for almost one hour because of the need for translations.

Asked if Egypt sees that the Soviet Union has a role in the Mideast peace negotiations, President Mubarak said that Egypt is not at all against an international conference, but is with any international conference agreed upon by the parties and with any style agreed upon to settle the issue.

Asked if he would visit the Soviet Union shortly, Mubarak said that he has no plan at present, adding that relations with the Soviet Union are good.

He further said that he came today to the Soviet Embassy to offer his condolences on the death of Soviet leader Chernenko and wished success for the new leadership.

President Mubarak clarified that the United States too has good relations with the Soviet Union.

President Mubarak added that if he was not pre-occupied with the programme of his visit to the United States, he would have gone directly to Moscow to offer his condolences.

Envoy Praises Mubarak's Visit

NC171622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Belonogov has expressed his appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Cairo. President Mubarak visited the embassy to offer condolences on behalf of the Egyptian people on the death of late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. In a statement to MENA, the Soviet ambassador said: I thank President Mubarak for his great interest, and for his personal visit to the Soviet Embassy. He added that this unusual visit is very significant. He pointed out that President Mubarak's visit affirms that Egyptian leaders are willing to broaden and promote bilateral relations in various areas.

The Soviet ambassador said that during his meeting with President Mubarak, they reviewed current Egyptian-Soviet relations. Belonogov expressed his appreciation for President Mubarak's frankness and honesty. He said that they both expressed their full readiness to improve, develop, and expand the scope of cooperation in all domains in the forthcoming stage. He also said that President Mubarak asked him to convey his condolences to the new Soviet leaders regarding the death of Chernenko, as well as his wishes for their success.

The Soviet ambassador said that there are numerous contacts between the two countries' senior officials. He said: This is normal and important. We support the development and the strengthening of relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt in the political, cultural, and economic domains. He pointed out that exchanges of parliamentary visits are among the most important contacts between the two countries.

The Soviet ambassador said that political exchanges between Cairo and Moscow can be described as [word indistinct] and that they will continue. He pointed out that during today's meeting with President Mubarak, they discussed only Soviet-Egyptian relations. In other words, the talks did not deal with any other topic, such as the results of President Mubarak's recent tour.

The Soviet ambassador expressed satisfaction with the current development of economic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He said that these relations are developing successfully and that they have reached a level of prosperity that existed before.

The ambassador emphasized the Soviet Union's strong eagerness for the establishment of security and peace in the Middle East. He said: We advocate a just and comprehnsive peace in the area.

Concluding his statement, the Soviet ambassador expressed regret over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. He said: We regard this war as a tragedy for the Iranian and Iraqi people and it constitutes a grave danger for the entire area. He appealed to both Iraq and Iran to use reason to achieve a peaceful settlement to this ferocious war.

Delegation Returns From Chernenko Funeral

NC172227 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Moscow this evening after attending the funeral for late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. The delegation includes Nur al-Din Farghal, first secretary to the president, and Brigadier General Ra'uf Hilmi, chief aide-de-camp.

Upon his arrival, Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim said that he conveyed President Mubarak's greetings to Soviet leader Gorbachev and that he held talks with Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the international situation, the Middle East issue, and Egyptian-Soviet relations. He added that he also met with members of the General Union of Egyptian Scholars [mab'uthin] in the Soviet Union shortly before their annual conference.

Mubarak Leaves on Brief Visit to Amman

NC180931 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0929 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Amman this morning on a brief visit that will last several hours. During his stay, he will meet with Jordan's King Husayn.President Mubarak's visit to Jordan comes after his tour of the United States and Europe. His visit is part of the continuous coordination between Egypt and Jordan, which seeks to give momentum to the Middle East issue. President Mubarak's accompanying delegation includes Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al Majid, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi, and Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport.

'Ali Interviewed on Israeli Attitude, U.S. Aid

PM151443 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
13-19 Mar pp 16-19

[Interview with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Jamal 'Inayat in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Inayat] Egyptian-Israeli contacts have noticeably increased recently, which has surprised many people. Has there been any change in the Israeli attitude to warrant these contacts?

['Ali] Yes indeed. In the past few days Israel began taking certain steps in the West Bank and Gaza. It has set up Palestinian banks and has shown willingness to solve the Tabah problem and the problem of the Palestinians in the Canadian camp in the Egyptian part of Rafah. Despite the contradictory statements emanating from Israel, it is ultimately bound to take decisions that would lead to peace in the Middle East. The Peres government is more flexible and that could lead to peace if the various issues are tackled with complete rationality in the interest of that objective.

['Inayat] Now that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has been announced, what is required next?

['Ali] Consultations must now be held with the United States and the big power capitals regarding the agreement. That would strengthen the Jordanian-Palestinian position, give the moves for peace fresh momentum, and encourage the other Arab states to support Jordan and the Palestinians in any future negotiations.

['Inayat] President Husni Mubarak has recently said that contacts for the purpose of coordination have been held between Egypt and the PLO. What is the nature of these contacts?

['Ali] We have had personal contacts and contacts through the PLO office, especially since the restoration of full relations with Jordan and 'Arafat's visit to Jordan. That in itself reactivates the consultation process. Our aim is to achieve a common concept with the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

['Inayat] Are the contacts held with Yasir 'Arafat or with one of his representatives?

['Ali] (smiling) Sometimes with 'Arafat, sometimes with other leaders.

['Inayat] There have been several Arab, European, and international initiatives for the settlement of the so-called Middle East problem, but such a settlement seems to be slow in coming. Do you think that this has something to do with the momentum necessary for any initiative?

['Ali] This matter really depends on two things — a unified Arab strategy and an Israeli conviction that coexistence with the Middle Eastern states is only possible through peace.

['Inayat] Can it be said that the Reagan initiative contains these elements?

['Ali] We have some reservations regarding Reagan's initiative.

['Inayat] (interrupting) You have already declared that you have three reservations, but is it possible to generate the necessary momentum? In other words, could there be a minimum degree of Arab acceptance of that initiative?

['Ali] The Reagan initiative is not the end of the road. It is simply an American idea of how a settlement could be achieved. It contains many positive points, paricularly the exchange of territory for peace and the assertion that Israel has no right to occupy territory by force and no right to continue its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. We could of course build on these positive aspects and set the negative aspects aside. We believe that negotiations will not be easy. We must, for a start, acknowledge this fact because there is much suspicion on the Israeli side and on the Arab side, which has more reasons to be suspicious than Israel.

['Inayat] But could an Arab momentum be generated in support of the Reagan initiative?

['Ali] So far there is no minumum degree of Arab agreement on that matter.

['Inayat] Are there Arab-Egyptian contacts, at least indirectly?

['Ali] There are indirect contacts with some Arab states, but there is no clear initiative on the horizon. We do not want to rush anyone. Relations as such are not a problem. What is important is that we should have some measure of coordination.

['Inayat] President Husni Mubarak is currently in the United States. I know that there are differences of opinion between Egypt and the United States on the question of economic and military aid. What is the nature of these differences?

['Ali] Egypt has been making serious efforts to rectify the course of the economy, but the drop in the revenues from oil, tourism, and the Suez Canal has created new financial difficulties related to Egypt's foreign currency reserves. That is why there is a need for an increase in financial hard currency aid to Egypt. That is our main request. (After a moment's silence) You also know that the prices of arms are now very high. Bearing in mind Egypt's self-defense responsibilities, we found it necessary to raise the question of military aid in the United States.

['Inayat] What does the United States think of these requests?

['Ali] That will be known during the president's discussion. According to press and other media reports the military aid to Israel has been increased by $400 million, but to Egypt by only $100 million which, of course, is insufficient, particularly because Israel and Egypt were supposed to get equal aid after the peace treaty.

['Inayat] How does Egypt view its relations with the Soviet Union?

['Ali] They are normal relations. That there are differences regarding Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is common knowledge. They admit this and so do we. That is why our relations are normal.

['Inayat] Do you believe that the opposition papers have exceeded acceptable limits?

['Ali] Some, not all, opposition papers have indeed exceeded acceptable limits. There is incitement not based on tangible reality or any reality for that matter. Some papers resort to slander, which in fact does not do these papers any good. On the contrary, it reflects negatively on these papers and gives the worst impression of democratic practice.

USSR Ties

NC160830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that current Egyptian moves are aimed at securing the return of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, as well as the return of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights. This land, he pointed out, is Arab territory.

In a statement to the weekly *AKHBAR AL-YAWM*, 'Ali said that Egypt is not motivated by ambitions to anticipate events or to assume leadership in the region. Egypt is motivated by responsibility to solve the Palestinian issue. He affirmed that Egypt has not and will not impose itself on events or on the parties concerned. All that is established is that Egypt is in full agreement with the PLO. Anyone who is opposed to this must provide an alternative. He said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement constitutes a suitable foundation for any future negotiations. He noted that what is required now is an agreement by the Arab countries reflecting a unified view.

'Ali pointed out that Egypt supported the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to prevent it from ending where other initiatives in the region had ended. Egypt also desired to give this agreement momentum, particularly since it has been accepted by the PLO, the owner of land, the issue, and the decision.

Referring to the U.S. hesitation and clear reservation about the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, 'Ali said that this reservation is due to U.S. apprehension that certain Arab parties may attempt to place obstacles in its way, thus causing another setback to U.S. policy in the region. He said that the United States has been a partner in the peace process and must continue to be a partner until a settlement is reached in the area. The United States is Israel's friend and the only party that can apply real pressure on it.

Regarding Egyptian-U.S. relations, 'Ali said that they are extremely good, that they have not changed, and that effective cooperation exists between the two countries as partners in boosting the peace process and in economic and military cooperation.

On the current escalation in the Iraq-Iran war and the shelling of civilian targets in both countries, 'Ali expressed hope that this grave escalation will stop and that the Egyptian initiative to nonaligned countries to solve the conflict will make progress and end this unjustifiable war. He pointed out that from the beginning Egypt had adopted a wise position calling on both countries to stop the fighting. Egypt then resorted to backing Iraqi defenses and noted that this support still continues.

Speaking on relations with the Soviet Union following Gorbachev's assumption of power, 'Ali described relations as normal and not affected by the departure of one leader and the advent of another. He said Gorbachev's leadership will not change Soviet policy, for it is a state and not personal policy.

'Ali emphasized that Egyptian-Israeli contacts must continue, to further efforts to bring about a settlement in the region.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Relations With U.S.

JN160740 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Interview with Usamah al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's Office, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Huda Tawfiq; date and place not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Husa Tawfiq] Following the Egyptian-U.S. summit, is there any new beginning or any move by the United States with regard to the problem?

[Usamah al-Baz] In fact, the move began with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement concluded on 11 February. This agreement [words indisticnt] whether on the Arab, regional, or international levels. It is natural for the United States to be at the head of those powers with which we deal, because of its responsibility for a peace settlement in the region and also because it maintains close relations with Israel. Therefore, it is natural for us to tackle the issue with it in light of the fact that the United States has the responsibility to not ignore the situation in its present stalemate.

The United States should move. When it decides to move, it will ask: On what basis will I move?

Our aim is to prevent the United States from sitting back with folded arms, imposing certain conditions on the Arabs before it makes any move. We don't want to permit the United States to say that the Palestinians did not make a sufficent move, that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement neither stipulates Resolution 242 nor Israel's right to exist, and that the agreement stipulates convening an international conference and does not stipulate direct negotiations. We wanted to cut off the U.S. path with regard to these points and to force it to move beyond its responsibility.

The move we want from the United States is its sympathy with the Palestinian right to self-determination [words indistinct], Israel's right to exist, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishing their state on their own land. As the Arab side, and the Palestinian side in particular, have proven their readiness for peace, we have the right for the United States to help us achieve the rest of the equation. The first step toward this is for the United States to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

When we came here, we had fears that the United States would continue to support the stalemate or the idea of waiting until the concerned parties reach an agreement. We have been able, God be praised, to convince the U.S. Administration. It became fully aware of the danger of continuing the current situation and of the need to move. We had fears that the United States would say that the parties concerned should talk to each other [words indistinct]. We have been able to convince the United States of some of these points. Of course, we cannot imagine the United States accepting all of our ideas at one time or fully responding to our ideas.

I believe that we have ended U.S. inaction, and we have explained to the United States the need to move. We have presented the

U.S. Government, particularly President Reagan, with several alternatives for any future move. We also said that we don't represent the Palestinians or express anyone's ideas. We said that we exert efforts to preserve momentum in the situation. The Jordanian foreign minister will visit the United States in the near future to hold a second dialogue with the United States. Dialogue may continue [words indistinct]. If matters go well, His Majesty King Husayn will also partidiapte in these efforts. There will be successive Arab actions [words indistinct] what have taken place may constitute steps that will lead ultimately to achieving some change in the U.S. positon that may serve the cause of peace.

Opposition Leader Views U.S. Response to Mubarak

NC162211 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — Opposition leader Mumtaz Nassar stressed that President Mubarak's proposals for the U.S. Administration to begin a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is a good opportunity to resolve the issue and that the United States must seize this opportunity or else it will be lost forever.

In a special statement to MENA, the opposition leader added: I believe it would be better for the United States if it realizes that its interests in the Middle East will be threatened if it is blindly partial to Israel. The United States must realize the need for achieving justice among the conflicting parties so that the Palestinians can achieve their legitimate right of self-determination.

Concluding his statement, Nassar noted that the results of President Mubarak's tour will be gradually presented to the People's Assembly since the U.S. Administration's response to begin a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will also appear gradually.

Consultative Council Supports Mubarak Peace Efforts

NC171500 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Consultative Council members have voiced support for all the constructive steps and initiatives President Husni Mubarak has made to stimulate the Middle East peace process, primarily regarding the Palestinian issue and all aspects of Egyptian-U.S. relations. In a statement released today regarding President Mubarak's trip to the United States, and Europe, the Consultative Council members praised the efforts his excellency has made and is making in cooperation with the Jordanian monarch and the PLO, under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, to form a unified view that could be the basis for negotiations among the concerned parties to help solve the issue.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Communique No 1,771

JN151802 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,771 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante.

Truly, they are men. Those who possess the staunch men that Iraq has can verily boast of them and make history proud of them. They promised and fulfilled their promise. They fought and were the model of how fighting should be. They carried in their consciences Iraq's glory, and Iraq's sun glitters in their eyes. O Iraqis, your sons have fought and are fighting, inspired by the spirit of justice and with fists of iron. As for your enemies, they are moving.

They are inspired only by their rancor against and the hatred of our people and our history now and in the future. Thus, our valiant Armed Forces proceed from victory to victory, while the Khomeyniite remnants are accursed with defeat and humiliation. It is God's promise to champion his soldiers, uphold justice, and defeat wrong and those who advocate it. God always fulfills what he promises.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and for today:

1. Our victorious forces are continuing their advance on the various axes in the East Tigris operational sector. The collapse of the enemy forces has become evident and they have begun to retreat in the face of our forces' advance, while our valiant Air Force and the Army's aircraft continue to pour the fire of the Iraqis' wrath on the water and on land, cutting off enemy supplies and strewing the fragmented bodies of its men everywhere.

The enemy has sustained appalling losses in men, totalling thousands killed or wounded. Our brave men of the valiant 27th Brigade, under the command of Staff Colonel Husayn 'Adday, and with the participation of hero Lieutenant Colonel Sa'd Raddam, have succeeded in fully purging the Al-Bayda' area of the enemy's desecration and in totally wiping out the enemy force in the area, with the exception of those who fell captive to our valiant forces.

The spearhead of the force storming the enemy positions was the column of Major Bashir 'Ubayd in the heroic company of Lieutenant Ahmad Madi Muhammad. Thus, our forces have completed the purge of all the edges of the Hawr, north of Lisan ('Ujarid). The situation on this axis is favorable to our forces.

2. Our gigantic Air Force, with its tested capability, assumed the task of dismembering the Khomeyniites, exterminating them en masse, demolishing their positions, and destroying their military hardware, whether on land or sea. Our aircraft carried out 415 combat missions today, after which the hawks of the air and their planes returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

3. Our helicopter gunships carried out sorties over the Khomeyniite remnants, their communications lines and positions in the east of Basa sector, and over the Maysan and the Central sectors, inflicting on the criminal enemy heavy losses in life and equipment. Confirmed enemy losses amount to 44 boats destroyed and the destruction of very large numbers of enemy troop concentrations and hardware stockpiles. Our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God, after accomplishing 320 combat sorties, the highest recorded by the Army's Air Force. Blessed be the knights of the helicopter gunships and blessed be their efforts in crushing the homeland's enemies.

4. In reply to the Khomeyniites' aggression against civilian areas, our aircraft carried out successful raids against Arak and Hamadan. Our aircraft returned safely to base, after accurately carrying out their duty.

5. Our forward units opened fire with artillery and other types of weapons on enemy positions and weapon emplacements in the Northern sector and east of Basra. Dealing effective blows they succeeded in destroying three hardware stockpiles, setting one enemy vehicle on fire and destroying it, and destroying one 60mm mortar and one infantry position.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 March 1985

Spokesman on Raids

JN152010 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1958 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While our valiant forces continue to destroy the enemy forces on all the axes of operations, our Air Force pursues the enemy remnants, reaches deep inside Iranian territory, and deals heavy blows on the heads of the criminal Khomeyniites who are crouching in Tehran in response to their recurrent aggressions against our cities and land. The aircraft of our daring Air Force carried out two successful raids against selected targets in Tehran and Qazvin, in north central Iran. After accomplishing their mission with accuracy at 1930 [1630 GMT], our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 15 March 1985

Source Denies Aircraft Downed

JN152023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2013 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi military source denied today that the Iraqi Air Force had lost any fighter aircraft or helicopter gunships today. The military source said that all the Iraqi fighter aircraft and helicopter gunships returned safely to base, after carrying out 735 sorties today on Iranian forces positions and selected targets deep inside Iranian territory. The military source stressed that the Iranian regime's claim that it shot down an Iraqi aircraft is baseless and that the Iranian side cannot conceal what the Iraqi Air Force carried out during its 735 successful and effective sorties.

Commanders on Al-Baydah Battle

JN160641 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar [date as received] (INA) — An Iraqi military commander has said that regaining the Al-Baydah area from the Iranians took place after 1 and 1/2 hours of fierce fighting. The staff brigadier general commanding the 27th Brigade said that the Iraqi counteroffensive began at 0730 [0430 GMT] yesterday, and added that the brigade's forces opened the road to the area after wiping out the Iranian force that was stationed there. He indicated that thousands of Iranian soldiers are now being buried, adding that the battle to regain Al-Baydah began with Iraqi aerial and artillery strikes. On the other hand, the commander of another military formation said that the Iranians carried out 10 offensive attacks yesterday in an attempt to penetrate the Iraqi defenses. He stressed that the Iranians suffered large losses, in addition to the destruction of huge quantitites of weapons and military equipment. He pointed out that the Iranian soldiers tried to withdraw after their attacks failed, but the Iraqi aircraft and artillery fire chased them to the rear lines, inflicting new, large losses on them.

Communique No 1,772

JN161916 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1803 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,772 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 16 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Verily falsehood kills its perpetrators and evil consumes its doers. The Khomeyniites are the misguided, covetous ones. They are sick with spite and their hearts are devoid of any human feeling or mercy for their own people. Their minds have never contained a glimmer of truth or a good notion. These criminals have been driven to death by their sick minds. Now they are between the hammer and the anvil. Our knights are pouncing on them from every side while our eagles are pouring fire on them. Their bodies are filling the battlefield. This is the punishment of the aggressors. By God, we have no answer to their lowliness but to make them taste death again and again.

If Khomeyni hears anything from Iraq, he hears only the whizzing of bullets and the roaring of guns. The sons of Iraq will always have the upper hand. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. We bring the first tidings of the final victory of the Al-Qadisiyah epic. We offer them as a gift to the great Iraqi people and to all the noble people in the world from the lions of battle and eagles of the air, the sons of Iraq. These days will remain immortal in history because they witness the retreat of barbarism and its symbols and the advance of the procession of freedom, whose banners are raised high by the arms of great Iraq — the Iraq of love, the nation that has always believed and will continue to believe in the ideals of man. It will continue to build its glory, defend its culture, realizing how life is built and protected.

Your Iraq, under the leadership of leader Saddam Husayn, O Iraqi men and free women, will always stand proud and victorious. It will always remain pure. Its land, air, and waters will remain chaste. Your enemies, no matter what they do, will remain defeated, humiliated, and lowly. Truth will triumph, good will triumph over bad and the future will always be free. A nation in whose conscience lives the great leader and whose leader lives in the great conscience of the people will live as it wants to live. Let them die in their own spite. Let them die in our fire. It is their punishment. O Iraqis, your brave columns are about to pounce on the enemy remnants and end all forms of resistance. They are advancing from the north in order to occupy positions one after another. They are led by the heroic presidential guard division under the command of Staff Major General Tali' Khalil al-Duri. The second column [ratl] of the presidential guard under Staff Colonel Ahmad Ibrahim Hammad is advancing to open the way for enemy positions. It is accompanied by the armored column of the 10th Armored Brigade under the command of Staff Colonel Ibrahim 'Abd al-Satta .

The enemy is crying for help because of our men's strike. Enemy soldiers either fall down or flee the battlefield. The southern force is advancing, opening up enemy positions. It is manned by the heroic men of the 6th Division under Staff Brigadier General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi. It is assisted by the heroic drive of the 18th Brigade under Staff Colonel Sabah 'Ajil Dawud. Looking for a false victory in order to attract fake media glitter and hide its abject defeat, the enemy has attempted to cross the Tigris River. It found the heroes of the 30th Armored Brigade under Staff Colonel Qays 'Abd al-Razzaq Jawad al-A'zami waiting for it. It also found the heroic 20th Brigade under Staff Colonel Mu'ayyad Ahmad al-Mahdi and the 19th Brigade under Staff Colonel Nur Jawad Hadi, assisted by the heroic popular army forces. There was perfect coordination supervised by the headquarters of the 5th Division under Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani. Your forces were able to dismember the enemy forces along the banks of Tigris and to bury enemy men under heaps of missiles. The situation has stabilized in our forces' favor.

We announce that the corpses of tens of thousands of the Khomeyniite aggressors have piled up. We tell the enemy remnants to leave this evening as a final deadline or immediately give themselves up to our forces, otherwise complete annihilation will be the fate of all those who remain on our territory. May God bless the men and praise be to God for giving us victory.

2. With the arrival of today's first light, our lofty eagles filled the sky over the battlefield in the east of Tigris theater of operations. While the ground knights were handing out blows to the enemy remnants from every direction, our eagles were hurling down a flood of fire and iron on the heads of the Khomeyniites on every inch of the battlefield. This continued throughout the day until the earth shook under their feet and they were buried in their positions. This is the punishment for those who attempt to trespass on an inch of Iraqi territory. The number of the combat missions today reached 536, after which the eagles of the sky

returned proud of their achievements and embraced by God's protection. Thus, our Air Force recorded the highest number of combat missions today since the beginning of the holy war.

3. The helicopter knights continued to deliver their blows to the heads of the Khomeyniites, accurately selecting their prey of personnel and equipment, inflicting grave losses on the men, and destroying massive quantities of equipment. After carrying out 390 combat missions, they returned safely with their planes in God's protection. They managed to destroy 16 boats, 5 hideouts, and 4 vehicles, as well as killing or wounding very large numbers of the enemy. Two enemy bridges were also destroyed.

4. In accordance with legitimate vengeance and in decisive reply to the Khomeyniites who transgressed against our territory, against our beloved Baghdad, and other Iraqi cities, in order to remove the disease of rancor from the Khomeyniite heads with the heavy stick, and in continuation of the victories our valiant forces are achieving at the moment in the east of Tigris theater of operations, the aircraft of our giant Air Force carried out a series of raids today against selected targets in the cities of Esfahan, Tabriz, Rasht, Ilam, Karand, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Saqqez, Sanadaj, Kermanshah, and Dezful. After accurately pounding their targets, the eagles of the sky returned safely and triumphantly with their aircraft. blessed be the lofty eagles. March forward completely crushing the aggressors until they bow to comprehensive peace.

5. Every hour Iraq's impregnability and the ability of its faithful sons are confirmed by the successive defeats inflicted on the enemy and his equipment. Three hostile F-5 aircraft tried to penetrate our international borders in the Al-Shib and Al-'Uzayr areas.

The valiant men of our ground defenses from the east of Tigris and Maysan intercepted them and managed to shoot them down. They were seen falling ablaze in enemy territory. Blessed be the hands of men and may God bless their endeavors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 March 1985

Commander on Tigris Battles

JN161958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Maysan, 16 Mar (INA) — Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, the field commander of East of Tigris forces, has said that the Iranian forces that were pushed into Hawr al-Hawizah were all that Iran could moblizie in a full year. In a statement to the INA mission on the battlefield, Maj Gen al-Fakhri added that the Iraqi forces were able to destroy the Iranian forces and inflict staggering losses in men and equipment. The Iraqi forces were also able to besiege what was left of the Iranian forces in Hawr (Burah). Al-Fakhri said that detailed (?plans) had been drawn up to confront the enemy. These plans proved to be very effective during battles over the past 3 days when thousands of enemy troops were wiped out and much enemy equipment was destroyed. The INA mission saw the Iraqi forces chase enemy forces, which left behind thousands of dead and wounded.

15,000 Iranians Claimed Killed

JN170730 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Latif Nussayif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has stated that more than 15,000 Iranians were killed during yesterday alone. In a statement to INA today, the minister said that several commanders, formation commanders, and a large number of Iranian officers are among the dead. The minister of culture and inforamtion said that large numbers of Iranian troops have been captured during the military operations that took place in the past few days, during which every bridge the enemy had erected was destroyed. Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that the battle, which has been raging for the past 6 days, will be ended soon and will certainly and invitably be settled in favor of the Iraqi forces.

Commanders on Counterattack

JN170850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Press reports here said today that large Iranian forces began a 3-pronged offensive yesterday morning to cross the Tigris River. The reports added that the bulk of these forces, comprising regular infantry troops carrying large quantities of weapons to secure them a continued combat thrust, carried out their attack in the center supported by other forces on the right and left flanks. The reports said that the Iraqis swiftly counterattacked, dispersing the bulk of the Iranian forces, then moving to strike the other two forces. The Iraqi counterattack fragmented Iranian combat efforts. The reports added that the presidential guard division assumed the responsibility of confronting the Iranian attack in the center and in isolating and containing the Iranian force on the dry land that separates Hawr al-Hawizah from the Tigris River.

The reports said that Iranian helicopter gunships tried to support the besieged Iranian forces by approaching the dry land, but the intensity of the Iraqi fire forced them to flee, leaving their forces at the mercy of the Iraqis blows. The reports described yesterday's battles as splendid battles, during which Iraqi field commanders demonstrated wisdom of action, sound maneuvering, calmness, optimism, and confidence that the decisive hour is not far away.

Staff Major General Hisham Sabah Fakhri, the field commander of the east Tigris operations, said that the Iraqi forces have succeeded in placing the Iranian forces etween the hammer and the anvil. In a press statement today, he said that President Saddam Husayn supervised the drawing up of military plans that would secure the extermination of the attacking Iranian forces, and whose implementation on the field was supervised by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister. Staff Maj Gen Hisham Sabah Fakhri said that the Iraqi forces regained most of the axes on which the Iranian enemy had advanced during its recent attack on Hawr al-Hawizah. He also explained that most of the attacking forces have been killed, wounded, taken prisoner, or defeated.

Staff Major General Sabih 'Umran al-Tarfah, commander of the Nasr forces, has stated that yesterday's battles were characterized by the swift implementation of duties and a daring storming of targets. He added that the Nasr forces quickly completed their military duties, pushing the Iranian forces backward. The advance of the Nasr forces enabled other Iraqi units to advance. He said that his brigade foiled any Iranian attempts to maneuver in the Al-Hawr in spite of the enemy's preparations and huge efforts. He added that the enemy losses in life and equipment are heavy and that the Iranian plan to attain any objective has been foiled. The commander of the Sa'd forces said that in the current battles, the Iraqi forces have destroyed Iranian military preparations that have been going on for over a year. In a press statement today, he said that the Sa'd forces which checked the attacking Iranian units thrust toward his forces' positions, waged a counterattack, destroying most of these units, and besieging the other units in an ideal place for slaughter. A field commander from the Muhammad al-Qasim forces has stated that these forces purged the west bank of the Tigris River from the Iranian presence. He added that the Muhammad al-Qasim forces and the forces supporting them launched a counterattack against the enemy and pursued them in accordance with a predetermined plan. He said that large groups of Iranian troops were killed, others were captured, and large quantities of weapons and military hardware were destroyed.

Iranian Airspace Prohibited Zone

JN171203 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1135 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Iraqi Air Force announces that in view of the continued aggressions by the Iranian regime against Iraqi territory and cities; in view of Iraq's being forced to reply in kind by using its Air Force against targets that are widely deployed deep inside Iranian territory, including the capital Tehran and other cities; in view of the expected dogfights that may occur with the Iranian Air Force as a result of this; and out of a commitment to the safety of passengers flying on civilian airliners that belong to all airline companies operating to and from Iran, we warn all international airline companies that the entire Iranian airspace is considered a prohibited zone, and that any air target which passes through this airspace will be exposed to direct danger in view of the difficulty of identifying targets, the intertwining of air routes, and the dogfights that are expected to occur at any time, taking into consideration that Iraq remains completely committed to the safety of civil aviation.

We hope that commitment to this warning will take place as of 2000 Baghdad time, that is 1700 GMT on Tuesday, 19 March 1985. We hope that everyone will take heed of this warning. Otherwise, Iraq will not be held responsible for any incident that may occur after this date and caused by the circumstances and implications of the fighting.

[Dated] 17 March 1985

Communique No 1,773

JN171807 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,773 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

By God, victory has always been the lot of justice and its people; the just power has only been the twin brother of virture and honor. Defeat has been the lot of falsehood and its followers; and both humiliation and shame are the best punishment for the perpetrators of vice as well as the end of every blasphemous oppressor.

O proud Iraqis, cheer up because the aggression that charlatan Khomeyni and his clique have prepared for you for over 1 year — an aggression in which they used all the means of evil in their possession, assisted by the leaders of Zionism and petty Arab agents — has been torn apart by your sons' arms and turned into a deep abyss that has room for everything except the greatest element in decisively settling the battle. They ignored this element out of hatred and grudge that prompted them to commit their aggression. It is the new Iraq that has been set up, the free will that rises above all difficulties has been born, and the old people who began to chart their path in the crowdedness of the age, led by a gallant historic hero, Saddam Husayn. Thus, God has come to them from where they did not expect it and thus death surrounded them from where they did not expect it. They found no shelter except death.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Since this morning, our triumphant forces have continued their advance with growing determination and absolute power. The men continued to crush the Khomeyniites' positions and clear their way of their remnants. In the meantime, our valiant Air Force and brave Army aircraft poured fire on the pocket of destruction in which the Khomeyniites sealed themselves. The 10th Armored Division managed to move southward, mopping up the (Rashidah) area, continuing its advance with its heroic formations, crushing thousands of the enemy remnants, and destroying their equipment.

In the meantime, the forces of the south commanded by the 6th Amored Division and its heroic formations advanced and crossed areas north of Humaayun. O Iraqis, your enemy is collapsing, its forces are disintegrating, and its losses are countless. This is a victory from God. Therefore, we will always thank Him.

2. Our bold Air Force planes launched a series of raids to support our valiant units in the East Tigris operational sector and cut off the enemy's supply lines. Our planes inflicted massive losses on enemy personnel, hardware, and equipment. They carried out 264 combat missions today, after which the sky hawks returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

3. In retaliation for the Iranian regime's aggression on our territory and on the residential areas and in order to punish this

regime for its multiple crimes and its failure to respond to the peace call, our Air Force planes launched a series of raids deep inside Iran. Selected targets were hit in Tehran, Qazvin, Hamadan, Kashan, Bandar-e Khomeyni, Kermanshah, and Dezful. After carrying out their duty accurately, the sky hawks returned to base safe and triumphant.

4. The bold Army aircraft are continuing their domination of the battle skies, giving magnificent, heroic support for our forces and disrupting the enemy supply lines with precise hits. Army aircraft carried out 435 combat missions today, during which the helicopter gunship cavaliers managed to destroy 20 large vehicles loaded with personnel, 3 pontoon bridges, 12 boats with their occupants killed, 2 armored personnel carriers, 2 106mm guns mounted on 2 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, and many hardware stockpiles. Several enemy troop assembly points were wiped out and several boats were sunk. It has been confirmed to us that the valiant helicopter cavaliers managed to down one enemy helicopter on 15 March.

5. At a time when our ground forces, Air Force, and Army aircraft are waging the battle of complete destruction of the enemy forces in the East Tigris operational sector, and as they are continuing to rap the heads of the Khomeyniites deep inside their territory, Iraq's strong arm continues to follow the enemy's maritime targets and to tighten its siege of Khark Island. Our heroic Air Force planes raided two very large maritime targets near Khark Island and managed to hit them accurately at 0830 [0530 GMT] today. Our planes returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

6. In order to pursue the Iranian regime with all possible means of retaliation for its aggression on our territory and cities and its failure to yield to the peace call, units from our missile force delivered destructive strikes against selected targets in Dezful and Andmisesh at dawn today. Our missiles hit their targets accurately. The Khomeyniites should expect further destructive strikes since they themselves have chosen the path of destruction and vice. We did them no wrong, but they were used to doing wrong to themselves. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 March 1985

Commander on Helicopters' Missions

JN180638 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — The wing commander of the Army's Air Force in the east of Tigris sector has stated that President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the pilots of the helicopter gunships' be honored for their role in destroying the Iranian enemy forces. The wing commander pointed out that these pilots' contribution was instrumental in destroying Iranian attempts to cross the Tigris River and in striking at enemy lines of communications and supply. He added that they played a major role in destroying large numbers of Iranian hideouts and boats. The wing commander noted that the Iraqi pilots employed new methods in fighting the Iranians and inflicting massive losses on them. He added that during current battles these pilots had carried out 1,675 combat missions.

Correspondents Leave for Front

JN180648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0632 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — A large group of Arab and foreign media correspondents left for the east of Tigris sector this morning. The correspondents, whose tour is organized by the Culture and Information Ministry, will witness Iranian losses in the Al-Hawizah marshes area over the past 6 days. They will also meet with Iraqi units and formation commanders and learn about the details of the battles in which the Iraqi forces succeeded in driving out Iranians from the positions that they had occupied earlier.

Presidential Guard Commander Comments

JN180725 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0648 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Staff Major General Tali' Khalil al-Duri, commander of the presidential guard division, has said that the areas that were purged in yesterday's battles extended from ('Ujarid) in the north to (Nahr al-Jif) in the south. In press statements issued today, the commander added that these areas include Nahr al-Rawf, (Tall al-Humr), ('Uqdat Rushaydah), the (Al-Nuhayr) areas, the Al-Sarifah area, and (Nahr al-Jif). The commander said that in these battles the Iranian regime suffered thousands of dead, many more wounded, and large numbers of weapons destoryed or captured. He noted that the Iranian forces used all the weapons they have, but the Iraqi forces taught them an unforgettable lesson. The commander pointed out that the Iraqi tanks employed their [word indistinct] to crush Iranian forces and that the most advanced, sophisticated weapons in the world were used.

Shelling of Basra Continues

JN180740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0731 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Basra, 18 Mar (INA) — For the 6th consecutive day, Basra has been under Iranian heavy artillery fire, causing a number of civilian casualties and destroying a number of houses. The INA correspondent says the Iranian shelling was continuing this morning.

Communique No 1,774

JN180815 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0739 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,774 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

But the wrath of God came to them from quarters from which they little expected it and cast terror into their hearts so that they destroyed their dwellings by their own hands and the hands of the believers. Take warning, then, O ye with eyes to see. [Koranic verse]

Good tidings to the great Iraqi people and the masses of the Arab nation. O glorious Iraqis, say with us: God is great, God is great, God is great. You have triumphed, O glorious Iraqis. You have defeated your evil enemies and raised high the great banner of Iraq. With God's help, you have defeated your enemies so that the banner of peace will flutter over you, with God's support. O Iraqis, thank God for victory and express your happiness each in his own way: At home, in the streets, in the factory, in schools, and in villages. It is your great victory. The evildoers have been defeated and the good believers have triumphed. It was a unique, immortal battle that your brave Armed Forces waged and in which they triumphed. The Popular Army was the honest backer of your Armed Forces. It was the crowning battle of all the great battles.

The suspect criminal enemy entered Hawr al-Hawizah at 2230 [1930 GMT] on 11 March 1985 with more than eight divisions after having prepared for this heinous deed for more than a year. We confronted this aggression with the strongest of our men: commanders, officers, and fighters. Fierce and harsh battles continued for 6 days and 6 nights during which the believers vied with each other in fighting evil and aggression. The honor of Iraq and the nation was filling their eyes and consciences. Thus, victory was yours. Praise God for his victory. Death to the rapacious aggressors. Glory to Iraq, glory to Iraq, glory to Iraq. Pride is for the Arab nation. God's mercy be on our chaste martyrs' souls.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1985

President Told of 'Victory'

JN181011 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Radio correspondent's dispatch — live or recorded]

[Text] From an advanced position in the Al-Rawtah area we greet you and meet with hero fighter Staff Brigadier [as heard] General Tali al-Duri, commander of the presidential guard division, who speaks of victory:

[Al-Duri] To the leader president, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. These are genuine good tidings. This is the news of the devastating victory over the forces of evil and aggression. Your brave soldiers, the presidential guard fighters, the men to whom difficult tasks are assigned, and the units attached to them, have won a great victory over the Persian enemy. With outstanding performance and bold drives, they were able to crush the cruel enemy forces that had returned to desecrate the soil of the dear homeland. They have destroyed the enemy forces. The enemy lost his wits and fled in panic as a result of the strikes delivered by your hero fighters, leaving behind the bodies of its men and modern, sophisticated weapons that the enemy soldiers were not fit to use. Nobody escaped except those who surrendered or fled in humiliation.

Struggling president, sir: The units of the presidential guard division were not satisfied with wiping out the enemy forces with their guns and machine guns, but took part in [word indistinct] the demented enemy soldiers. Thus, the heroic Saddam forces were able to purge our territory of the filth of the rapacious aggressors. They wrested victory and regained Al-Rawtah village. They raised the Iraqi banner high to flutter with pride, despite the wishes of the rancorous enemies. Victory comes from God. We pledge to you that we will remain Your Excellency's right arm and at your behest to fight the enemies of God, the homeland, and the nation. God is great, victory is for great Iraq, led by the pride of Iraq, the builder of Arab glory, and the preserver of its existence, Comrade Struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Glory and immortality to our martyrs' souls.

Marches, Demonstrations Mark 'Victory'

JN181043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — People in all parts of Iraq are participating in mammoth demonstrations and marches to express their joy over the Iraqi forces' victories over the Iranian forces in the Hawr al-Hawizah battles. Calls of 'God is great' were heard from the minarets of mosques, and the churches sounded their bells to express happiness with the great victory over the Iranian aggression. Popular musical bands took part in these mass demonstrations while the people were singing national songs.

Defense Minister Cables Saddam

JN181205 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1101 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received the following cable from Defense Minister Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

But he did lead astray a great multitude of you. Did you not, then, understand? This is the hell of which you were repeatedly warned. Embrace ye the fire this day for that ye persistently rejected truth. [Koranic verses]

From the deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and president of the republic, may God preserve him.

President, sir: On the morning of 18 March, the great day of victory, an elite force of the triumphant land forces, supported by our brave Air Force eagles, waged an epic battle that will be mentioned in history with pride. With an unprecedented spirit of sacrifice they pounced on the rancorous enemy, which is devoid of sanity and conscience. The sick spite and ill winds of the rancorous Shu'ubists in Tehran and Qom invaded [Iraq] on the night of 11/12 March, repeating the heinous deed they perpetrated in February of last year, carrying death and destruction to our people in Basra, Al-Qurnah, (Al-'Ujarid), and the secure villages on the banks of the glorious Tigris. They attacked the proud territory east of Tigris where the Tigris embraces Hawr al-Hawizah at Al-Qurnah.

They wanted to assassinate Iraq, its people, and its territory. They wanted to harm its women, children, and men. They wanted to return with proud Iraq to darkness and backwardness. They did not like to see Iraq bearing the nation's message of hope. They plotted, intrigued, and distorted. Their black hatred and spite were not quenched. They have been planning their criminal deed for 1 year and a few months. They reaped only ignominy, frustration, and humiliation. Their hopes were dissipated, their forces were scattered, and they tasted bitter defeat. The heroes of the second Al-Qaidsiyah confronted them, ispired by their victorious leader. Fierce battles ensued during which the determination of men and their will to triumph and remain steadfast were tested. We fought them from one inch to the next, from one trench to another, and from one position to another, night and day over the past 7 days. Your soldiers made the frustrated enemies taste bitter humiliation. Your heroic soldiers drove away those who were oucky enougnt to escape over the borders, leaving behind thousands of dead in Al-Rawtah, (Al-Rushayday), (Al-'Ujarid), and Al-Sakhrah as food for the birds of prey. We never wronged them but they wronged themselves. We congratulate you on the victory of your brave soldiers under your capable, brave leadership. We congratulate our people and all the forces of love on this victory. I congratulate the land forces, the Air Force pilots, the helicopter pilots, and the Popular Army men who are a real asset to the Armed Forces. I would like to express my admiration for their unprecedented fighting and my high appreciation of the field command under your outstanding leadership. May Iraq remain strong through you and may you remain strong through Iraq. May God preserve you as a symbol and protector. May God grant you long life.

[Signed] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, 18 March 1985

General Shanshal Congratulates President

JN181322 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, has emphasized that the Iraqi Armed Forces have completed their mission perfectly by wiping out the Iranian aggression east of the Tigris this morning. In a congratulatory cable to President Saddam Husayn, he said that the Iraqi forces accomplished their mission at 0815 [0515 GMT] today by clamping down and wiping out the enemy forces that were estimated at more than eight divisions east of the Tigris. He added that the Iraqi forces raised the banner of victory in this immortal epic, during which they gave a hard lesson to the invading enemy which prepared for this operation for over 1 year. However, he said, the enemy was disappointed although it used the best of its units and although it sought the experience of the Zionists and grudge-bearers supporting it.

5 Iranian Cities Raided

JN180915 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0905 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In retaliation for the criminal Iranian regime's aggression on our territory and on the city of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, our heroic Air Force carried out a series of raids on selected targets in the cities of Hamadan, Esfahan, Tabriz, Kermanshah, and Arak between 1030 and 1100 [0730-0800 GMT] today.

After accurately delivering their strikes, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Let the Khomeyniites know that we will continue to strike everywhere and at all times until they kneel before us in humiliation.

[Dated] 18 March 1985

Loss of Plane Denied

JN181156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — An authorized military source has denied Iranian claims that an Iraqi plane was shot down in the southern sector this morning. The source told INA that all the Iraqi planes that carried out missions today returned safely to base.

Papers Comment on New Iranian Defeats in War

JN160649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA) — The newspapers issued here today assert that the Iranian forces are collapsing and retreating in Hawr al-Hawizah in front of the Iraqi forces' advance. The *AL-QADISIYAH* newspaper, which is issued by the Defense Ministry, says the fate of what is left of the Iranian forces will be destruction or capture. It adds that the Iraqi forces will chase the defeated forces until they are completely destroyed and wiped out. The paper asserts that the Iraqis will burn the aggressors with fire.

AL-THAWRAH says that in their defense of the homeland, the Iraqi force's goal is to destroy the possibility of any new aggression. The paper says: We will make them think a thousand times before they encroach on our strong borders or before they fire one shell on any Iraqi city. The paper asserts that the Iraqi forces will continue to inflict bitter defeats on the Iranian aggressors and to wipe out and destroy their concentrations.

AL-THAWRAH points out that the Iraqi deterrent force has foiled the schemes of the Iranian rulers, who aim through their new aggression to achieve strategically important gains. The paper says that the Iranian rulers mobilized the best military force they have for this aggression and exerted great efforts to revive their destroyed air force.

The paper asserts that the Iraqi forces have destoryed all the Iranian rulers' preparations, and have inflicted more defeats on them. The paper says: Iraq's soldiers will tighten the grip around them and strike them where it hurts.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in Baghdad

JN160610 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0605 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA) — A booby-trapped car has exploded in a Baghdad residential area this morning. Official sources told INA that the incident, which was perpetrated by the Iranian regime's agents, destroyed one house and wounded a number of citizens.

'Aziz Letter to UN Calls for Immediate Cease-fire

JN162145 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2113 GMT 16 MAR 85

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening sent a letter to the president of the UN Security Council in reply to the statement that the Security Council issued yesterday. The following is the text of the letter:

Esteemed president of the UN Security Council: Taking cognizance of the statement that you issued on behalf of the Security Council members on 15 March 1985, I have the honor to inform you that Iraq welcomes the contents of your statement in which the Security Council members affirmed the urgent need to end hostilities, beginning with a moratorium on attacks on purely residential areas, with the aim of finding a peaceful solution for the conflict in accordane with the UN Charter and international law — a solution that would be acceptable to both sides.

This Iraqi attitude is based on its previous stands since the beginning of the armed hostilities. This Iraqi attitude affirms our previous position. From the very beginning, Iraq has accepted all the Security Council resolutions and all international initiatives and appeals that call for ending hostilities and finding a peaceful settlement for the conflict between the two countries. On this occasion, I would like to reaffirm to you Iraq's firm and sincere desire to spare civilians the pains of war. I also expressed the same desire to the UN secretary general in my letter dated 10 March 1985. I explained to the secretary general Iraq's commitment to the 12 June 1984 agreement and how the Iranian regime exploited this agreement to mass its forces in Iranian border cities and villages with the aim of continuing to launch its hostile attacks on Iraq.

I also would like to affirm to you that the Iraqi bombing on 4 March was aimed at a factory in the outskirts of the city of Ahvaz. This target is not covered by the 12 June agreement. The Iranian regime took this as a pretext to intentionally shell Basra on 5 March 1985, thus violating this agreement, as a prelude to launching a new large-scale offensive on Iraqi territory. Actually, a few days after the intentional Iranian violation of the 12 June agreement, the Iranian regime launched a very large aggression on Iraqi territory on 12 March 1985. This aggression is still continuing.

We believe that it is time the United Nations, particularly the UN Security Council, takes the necessary measures to reach a comprehensive solution to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. We also believe that this should take place within the following framework:

1. To cease fire and immediately end all military operations; to withdraw forces to internationally recognized borders; and to dispatch a UN observer team in order to ascertain and monitor the cease-fire, withdrawal, and the two sides' adherence to this.

2. The UN secretary general or the Security Council should hold direct contacts with the two sides in order to secure arrangements for the cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces, and the selection of international observers, in addition to obtaining effective arrangements to guarantee a moratorium on shelling of purely residental areas.

3. Negotiations between the two sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general or the Security Council in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict on the basis of the UN Charter and international law in accordance with what was included in your statement and in a manner that would maintain sovereignty and international borders of the two sides and guarantee noninterference in domestic affairs.

4. An urgent solution to the POW issue through an immediate exchange of POW's.

5. Iraq, out of its concern to cooperate with your Council and the United Nations, does not object to beginning preparatory steps to reach a comprehensive peace, including beginning, under the UN secretary general or the Security Council, discussion with the other side on arrangements to establish a moratorium on shelling of purely residential areas and the exchange of POW's, if the other side will abide by this along with the other side's commitment to serious and continuous work on settling the conflict in accordance with the bases mentioned in the previous points.

6. Iraq warns that any premeditated violation or procrastination that seeks to hamper a comprehensive peace will be considered as a violation of all the commitments or arrangements that would be reached at any stage. Iraq then will have the right to act accordingly to defend its sovereignty, security, rights, and legitimate interests. Please, Mr President, accept my high appreciation and respect.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Iraqi Republic, 16 March 1985

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Visit to France, Italy

JN161147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned here today following a visit to France and Italy as part of the 7-member Arab committee in charge of following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

During the two visits, Tariq 'Aziz met with French President Francois Mitterrand, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

The committee's visits were part of its plan to explain developments of the Iraq-Iran war to the UN Security Council and the EEC member-states.

Saddam Husayn Congratulates Mikhail Gorbachev

JN181053 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1003 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Comrade Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and president of the Republic, has congratulated Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrade Saddam Husyan's cable says:

On the occasion of your election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, it is my pleasure to send you, in my own name and on behalf of our comrades in the command, our heartfelt congratulations wishing you success and the friendly Soviet people further development and progress. On this occasion, we assert our deep confidence that the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries will flourish and develop in the service of our peoples' common interests and the issues of world security and peace.

Saddam Receives Call From Egypt's Mubarak

JN162223 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from his brother Egyptian President Husni Mubarak following his return to Cairo this evening after an international tour. The Egyptian president inquired about developments in the battles on the front. President Saddam Husayn reassured the Egyptian president about the situation on the front and about the high morale of the fighters. President Mubarak praised the heroic Iraqi fighters and wished them victory.

Saddam Husayn Receives Algerian Envoy, Message

JN171901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Algerian Public Health Minister Djamel Eddine Houhou here this evening. The Algerian envoy conveyed an oral message from President Chadli Bendjedid on the fraternal relations between Iraq and Algeria. The president's secretary and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Saddam Husayn Reassures 'Arafat on War Situation

JN172052 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2028 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening. He phoned the president in order to be reassured about the situation on the battlefronts. President Saddam Husayn reassured Yasir 'Arafat about the situation and the solidity of the fighters.

Sudanese Minister, Delegation Depart Baghdad

JN151420 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — Sudanese State Minister Dr Hasan Ibshayr al-Tayyib and his delegation left Baghdad today following a weeklong visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Sudanese minister held talks with several officials in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The talks dealt with ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the educational and scientific fields.

PRC Minister Discusses Agricultural Cooperation

JN160948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA) — Siddiq 'Abd al-Latif Yunis, minister of irrigation and agrarian reform, met here today with Rui Xingwen, PRC minister of urban and rural construction, who is now visiting the country.

They discussed aspects of cooperation, exchanging expertise in the various agricultural fields, and ways of developing this cooperation in the interests of both peoples.

Talks With Trade Minister

JN181055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, met with Rui Xingwen, PRC minister of urban and rural construction, and his delegation here today.

During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and reviewed the implementation of the clauses of the minutes of the second session of the joint committee for economic and trade cooperation that were signed in Beijing late last year.

Cuban Minister Farah Arrives in Baghdad

JN170900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Levi Farah, Cuban minister without portfolio responsible for supervising overseas construction, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last several days. The Cuban minister will hold talks with Iraqi officials on ways of strengthening economic and trade cooperation between Iraq and Cuba.

Indian Official Arrives for Talks on Gulf War

JN171955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Indian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (S.B. Finko) arrived here this evening on a visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, (Finko) expressed the deep concern of Rajiv Gandhi, Indian prime minister and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, over the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. He added that it is sad that this war continues. The Nonaligned Movement has to exert efforts to end this war. (Finko) indicated that he was entrusted to convey to the leadership in Iraq Gandhi's stand as Indian prime minister and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement on the subject of ending the war.

Husayn Contacts Iraq's President Saddam on War

JN151810 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today to acquaint himself with the developments in the military situation on the Iraqi front. During the call, the Iraqi president stressed Iraq's firm position and its ability to confront the Iranian aggression and achieve victory over it. His Majesty King Husayn praised fraternal Iraq's brave confrontation of the Iranian regime's aggression, stressing his confidence that Iraq, which is leading a just war in defense of its territory, supremacy, and the honor of its nation, will achieve victory.

Husayn Urges Arab Leaders To Support Iraq

JN161933 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn sent messages to his brother leaders of fraternal Arab states today. The messages included a call for coordinating Arab efforts in the greater Arab homeland toward the fierce war between Iran and fraternal Iraq — a war which has entered its 5th year and which, if continued, will threaten Arab and Islamic interests. His majesty pointed out that Iraq, which is strongly and bravely confronting the Iranian aggression and which has achieved great superiority in protecting its territory and defending its Arab sanctuary and its nation's rights and dignity, has accepted all the initiatives to settle the conflict peacefully while Iran has continued to escalate the fighting and is shelling residential areas in a manner that widens the gap on a humanitarian level.

His majesty called for a cohesive Arab stand to support fraternal Iraq in order to immediately end the war in accordance with historic rights and documents and in implementation of duties so that Iraqi-Iranian relations and Iran's relations with its neighboring Arab states can be established on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference by any state in any other state's affairs.

Mubarak Arrives To Brief Husayn on Trip Results

JN181118 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Amman at noon today on a visit to Jordan during which he will acquaint His Majesty King Husayn with the results of his U.S. and European tour.

The two leaders will make a general review of Arab moves on the international arena to reach a just and peaceful settlement to the Palestine question.

His Majesty King Husayn led those who received President Mubarak. President Mubarak was also received by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Senate president, the chief of the Royal Court, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the court minister, the ministers, and senior civilian and military officials.

'Expanded Meeting' Held

JN181242 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Egyptian side, led by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, held an expanded meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. This was followed by a bilateral meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak.

At the beginning of the meeting, his majesty welcomed President Husni Mubarak, appreciating in particular his visiting Jordan immediately after his return from his U.S. and European tour. President Mubarak briefed his majesty on his recent talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and senior U.S. officials. He also briefed his majesty on his talks with a number of heads of states of the European countries that he visited. They are France, Britain, the FRG, and Italy. The two leaders made a thorough evaluation of Arab moves on the international level with the aim of realizing a just, comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue. They reviewed developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Attending on the Jordanian side were Crown Prince Hasan; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Communications Minister Muhammad al-Zabin; Tahir Hikmat, minister of culture, tourism, and antiquities and acting information minister; Transportation Minister Farhi 'Ubayd; Raja'i al-Dajani, secretary of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Jordan's Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hamami.

Attending on the Egyptian side were Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Transportation and Communications Minister Sulayman Mutawalli; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Rushdi; and Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbah.

At the end of the expanded meeting, the Jordanian ministers held bilateral talks with their counterparts in the Egyptian delegation on bilateral cooperation in the various fields and means of supporting and developing it in the two people's interests.

His Majesty King Husayn held a banquet in Mubarak's honor. It was attended by Crown Prince Hasan and members of the Jordanian and Egyptian delegations.

Husayn Says U.S. Must Meet With Joint Delegation

JN172025 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] His majesty the king has said that the United States must take part in a Middle East peace process by meeting with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and any negotiations must involve the Palestine Liberation Organization. His majesty was speaking in an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES* published today.

He said: I have done my utmost to move towards peace. We mustn't miss this opportunity. This is the last chance. His majesty said that the accord signed between Jordan and the PLO was historic, as it meant that the PLO had agreed to pursue a negotiated settlement. The accord, the king added, also indicated that the PLO is willing to accept a state confederated with Jordan.

Foreign Minister Al-Masri on PLO Agreement

GF141750 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Doha, March 14 (WAKH) — Jordan's Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has denied that there are differences between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) over their joint agreement for peace in the Middle East and just settlement of the region's crisis. Al-Masri, in an interview published today by the Qatari weekly *AL-'URUBAH*, expiained that "certain points in the agreement — signed February 11 — had required a common interpretation and that this has already been done." Al-Masri pointed out that the joint agreement, which he said is long overdue, has won the support and backing of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territories as it (the agreement) is compatible with their objective of achieving the Israeli withdrawal from those territories.

Referring to the recent meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt at Ghardaqah, the Jordanian foreign minister said that the Egyptian-Jordanian and Jordanian-Palestinian joint actions necessitate "that Washington does something new."

Al-Masri maintained that there now is a West European role which is increasingly being crystallised toward a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. He called for convening the postponed Arab summit, which he said has become an urgent matter due to the prevailing state of discord in the Arab arena.

King Husayn Receives Djibouti Industry Minister

JN151906 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Fahmi Ahmed el Hag, Djibouti minister of industry and industrial development, at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. The Djibouti minister conveyed to his majesty a message from Djibouti President Hasan Gouled Apidon on issues of mutual interest, ways to consolidate bilateral relations, and cooperation in the economic and trade fields.

The message contains Djibouti's support for Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace in the Middle East — a peace that is based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem, in accordance with the principle of land in exchange for peace — and to maintain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court, and Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry and trade.

The Djibouti minister left Amman this evening after a 4-day visit to Jordan.

Minutes on Cooperation Signed

JN152155 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Jordan and Djibouti signed joint minutes to organize economic, trade, and technical relations in the mutual interest of the two fraternal countries at Queen 'Alia' Airport this evening. The munutes were signed for the Jordanian Government by Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry and trade, and for the Djibouti Government by, Fahmy Ahmad el Hag, minister of industry and industrial development.

The minutes asserted the need to exert further efforts to develop and increase trade exchange between the two countries and to find ways that would guarantee the use of Djibouti as an outlet for exporting different Jordanian commodities to East Africa, the Red Sea littoral states, and Indian Ocean countries.

The minutes also encouraged the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries, the establishment of a fair for Jordanian products in Djibouti in November, and the export of Jordanian commodities and agricultural products at suitable prices.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Kidnappings

NC171949 Paris AFP in English 1939 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 17 (AFP) — Islamic Jihad, a shadowy terrorist group, today claimed it was holding two Britons and an American kidnapped in the last four days, suggesting they were spies but setting no conditions for their release.

An anonymous caller told a foreign news agency here that Islamic Jihad was holding Terry Anderson, the Middle East director for the Associated Press, who was kidnapped yesterday morning, British scientist Gordon Nash, abducted Thursday, and Brian Levick, the head of an oil firm who was seized Friday. "These kidnappings were carried out in the framework of our operations against the United States and its allies," the caller said. "We are convinced that Islamic Beirut is infested with foreign agents."

The caller gave a "last warning" to foreigners who he said were abusing Lebanese hospitality "to carry out terrorist operations against us."

"To take the guise of journalist, businessmen, executive, priest, or scientist doesn't work any more," he said. "The fate of the spies who live among us has become known."

Amal Gunmen Kidnap Libyan Diplomat in W. Beirut

NC171555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] According to security reports, yesterday Amal gunmen kidnapped 'Abd al-Basit al-Tarabulsi, member of the Libyan People's Bureau in Beirut, while he was in the Corniche al-Mazra'ah area of West Beirut. Al-Tarabulsi was taken to an Amal movement center in Beirut's southern suburb and is still there.

Khaddam Informs Al-Jumayyil of Syria's Support

NC152030 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Our correspondent in Ba'bda Palace reports that President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received a phone call tonight from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They discussed current developments, and Khaddam stressed Syria's support for President al-Jumayyil.

Prime Minister Karami on Phalangist Dispute

NC151738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Remarks by Prime Minister Rashid Karami in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 15 March — recorded]

[Text] It is only natural that we should assess local events in Lebanon, and consider them to determine their dimensions and implications. Despite the fact that these actions are confined to the Lebanese Forces within the Phalangist Party, that shouldn't prevent us from saying that their statements, and subsequent actions, indicate that their intentions don't stop there. They are trying to speak on behalf of Lebanon's Christians. Therefore, the situation concerns all Lebanese, given the repercussions and effect this will have on our march toward salvation and the achievement of national reconciliation. This is the basis of our concern. We wonder what they mean when they talk about the independence of Christian decisionmaking. If the plan and program contained in the government's policy statement, which defines original principles and a basis for the emergence of a new Lebanon in accordance with the formula we all accepted, have been approved by the government, which includes the country's most influential figures, then I don't think [former] President Sham'un, leader of the Lebanese Front, has — as some say — ceased to be a Christian. This is also true of Minister Joseph al-Hashim, not to mention his excellency the president. He is the son of the Phalangist Party's founder, the president of the Republic, and in other words, the one responsible for the country's general policy. If all these people don't represent the Christians in the eyes of certain extremists, whose actions have hurt us over the past 10 years and who now claim to represent the Christians, then it is their view which is not in keeping with Lebanon's interests and destiny. This is particularly true under the current circumstances, when Israel is working on the second phase of its withdrawal, is making statements, and is conducting maneuvers and carrying out ugly and inhuman actions against our innocent, peaceful people. Such a movement is, under the current circumstances, a cause for pessimism, let alone doubt.

When they talk about independence and opposition to hegemony and other things, we would like to highlight the fact that all this is permissible only when confronting the enemy. Therefore, we would like to emphasize that the government's program constitutes the minimum agreed upon by all the functionaries and forces that represent the Lebanese people. It is what we have accepted as a minimum, and we are committed to it. We will use it as a means of serving our society and people. No one can impose anything else on us. For this reason, I answer the allegation that this movement is political by asking: since when has policy been made by the military, especially in Lebanon? When they draw and point a pistol in the name of policy to influence the Lebanese Government's programs, plans, and actions, they should let us say that this is no policy at all. It is a program of violence that we totally reject. They hold the post of president of the Republic. Through that office, they oversee all actions taken by the state and its insitutions. If they aren't satisfied by this, then by God, tell me what else will satisfy them. If they actually want to impose their views, we reject that. We say on a daily basis that we accept only a unified, sovereign, and independent Lebanon. It was on this premise that we called for liberation and invited everyone to take part. Therefore, how can we even imagine such a movement while Israel is committing all sorts of barbaric acts against Lebanon's people in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya?

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the fact that these delays are critical for Lebanon. In the name of Lebanon, I call on everyone to return to the proper path and not to increase the chances for any surprises that might be unfavorable for all of them.

[Question] They are now criticizing you because the government is interfering in the dispute, which they regard as an internal one involving the [Lebanese] Forces and the Phalangists. The government has not interfered in similar disputes between other parties. What is your response to this?

[Karami] We don't understand this logic. If they're trying to influence the government and confuse the state's course, what do they expect the government and the state to do in response? This is particularly poignant given the government's task to preserve stability, serve the people's interests, and to work at liberating Lebanon's land and people. Were we to go back, I would like to remind you of the bloody fighting that took place and led to the destruction of much of Lebanon. That was the result of an extremist policy and proposals unacceptable to the sweeping majority of Lebanese.

The national unity government, which embodies the will of all Lebanese, is working for the emergence of a democratic Lebanon on the basis of justice and equality. It is enough for me to say that [former] President Sham'un and Joseph al-Hashim are members of the government. I do not need to mention who the president of the republic is.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what decisions were made as a result of your talks today with [Syrian Vice President] Khaddam and [Syrian Prime Minister] Dr al-Kasm? I ask this in light of the fact that Syria issued its first warning to the rebels last night and its second warning at noon today.

[Karami] What actually intrigues us is the movement's timing, especially now that Israel is withdrawing from our pure soil. Any confusion to block the completion of this withdrawal would serve the enemy. We must consider everything that serves the enemy and deal with it to fight every suspect plan of this nature. The relations, interests, and common fate we have with Syria force us to meet and conduct analyses. We do so to open the road to joint action, and thus confront all that harms Lebanon, and through Lebanon, our Arab nation. For this reason, our meetings were devoted to an analysis of the dimensions and implications of current events in Lebanon. Its purpose was to contain the situation and eliminate everything that might jeopardize Lebanon's process of liberation, unification, and salvation.

[Question] Is any use of force likely?

[Karami] In fact, we oppose the use of force by anyone. We support joint action that asserts Lebanon's sovereignty, stability, and prosperity. However, in the case of self-defense, you can say that anything is an application of this legitimate right.

Lebanese Forces 'Source' Answers Karami, Al-Huss

NC161605 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] In response to statements made by Karami and Al-Huss, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces uprising, the movement of the Christian decision, has made the following statement: We are not surprised by the statements made by Rashid Karami and Salim al-Huss because, throughout their political history, these two men have been the tools of the expansionist policies, which are incompatible with the Lebanese entity. Basically their roles have been founded on liquidating the basic elements of the Lebanese sovereignty by obstructing the legitimate institutions. They are now talking about the Lebanese homeland and internal reconciliation. These maneuvers are no longer a secret to anyone. They have always been the agents of the Palestinian policy and tools of the Arab axes which destroyed the impregnability of the Lebanese homeland and its sovereignty.

Finally, we would like to remind them that reconciliation in Lebanon can be achieved only by overcoming such tools. Lebanon is in need of genuine parties to establish real reconciliation.

Karamah Addresses Phalange Political Bureau

NC151830 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Phalange Party leader Dr Elie Karamah today considered the developments in the eastern area as a violation of the Phalangist principles and spirit. Speaking at the outset of the meeting of the Phalange Political Bureau and Central Council, Dr Karamah said: What I will say at this meeting is nothing new to anyone because I have reiterated it more than once during recent meetings. I have explained the framework which we have followed and within which all decisions have been adopted with the concurrence of all Political Bureau and Central Council members.

We have been entrusted with this party's leadership. We will do our utmost to safeguard this precious trust left to us by Pierre al-Jumayyil. This trust has been legitimately given to the party leadership by the party's electorate body. This legitimacy has not been imposed or wrested by the force of arms. Such methods are completely inconsistent with the Phalangist principles and spirit. Regrettably, however, someone has not respected this trust.

The Phalange Party's history is full of proofs that what I am saying is true. The party has not once resorted to arms or force to assume power, but it has used arms and force on the national level to defend freedoms and dignity. Arms and force will never become means to impose a specific opinion or will. We will preserve and defend with all means and ways this trust, which Pierre al-Jumayyil and the electorate body have placed in us, because the Phalange Party is in real danger now. However, this danger must be averted because the spirit on which the Phalange Party was built remains unchanged. This spirit is a course of quality, discipline, and responsibility.

Dr Karamah added: We, in the Phalange Party, have not adopted any coup movements because they are alien to our traditions, concepts, and ethics. The decisions taken sought the sublime national interests. They were based on unanimity of the Political Bureau and Central Council. They followed the pattern drawn up Pierre al-Jumayyil. It is impermissible that anyone should speak in the name of Pierre al-Jumayyil or Bashir al-Jumayyil, who left an institution which is the backbone of Lebanon. We want to preserve this institution at any cost, because it is the only means to safeguard the homeland, the dignity of the Lebanese in general, and the Christians in particular, and the rights of Lebanon. Anyone who tries to drive a wedge in this institution is like the one who destroys the temple over the head of its owners.

This coup phenomenon is very dangerous. It will not stop at this because it has opened wide the door for anyone trying to create contradictory trends to the previous movement. The result will be taking the homeland to the edge of the abyss. As part of our national responsibilities we reject everything that could lead to destruction and to the weakening of the Christians. What is important is that we should not provide an opportunity to the enemies of Lebanon and the Phalangists to succeed at this stage. They failed in the first stage after the death of the founder [Pierre al-Jumayyil] when they laid bets on dividing the Phalangist ranks and consequently the Christian ranks. We are lying in wait for these people and we will not give them an opportunity to harm the Phalangist institution and the homeland's entity.

From the first moment we have sought not to shed innocent blood. This is very important. We have tried to avoid bloodshed and armed clashes despite the fact that we are being faced with an armed movement inside the party. I will not hide from you that what has happened has deeply shocked me, because I never thought that someone from the Phalangist ranks, which were brought up by Pierre al-Jumayyil, would resort to such methods. Despite the deep shock, I have not lost confidence in the Phalangist spirit, which alone will remain. Everything else will disappear.

Dr Karamah added: Therefore, we have instructed all the party's centers to remain self-composed and wise and not to act rashly to avoid bloodshed. We advocated love and understanding. However, from now on we will not permit anyone to dare attack any legitimate party establishment. This does not mean that we will carry out military operations; this is totally out of the question because it does not conform with our Phalangist character. What we want, though, is to safeguard these establishments at any cost.

Dr Karamah further said: We are very open. We are dealing with things with love and without hatred or grudge against anyone at all. We consider ourselves as the big brother who embraces his younger brother with love. On this occasion I ask, where we are heading and what future will this movement have, particularly at a time when we are suffering from serious national, security, political, and economic crises? What would be the Christians' future after losing confidence in everything and reaching the brink of blasphemy and despair?

We do not wage any new battles against anyone. We have been seeking everything through understanding and logical ways without emotionalism. Our faith in the need to safeguard dignity, freedom, sovereignty, and independence is absolute. Hence our calls against foreign interference. The large number of our martyrs is the best proof of this.

The Phalangist leader then said: Before we took any fateful or ordinary decisions, we asked everyone to come with an alternative which would be discussed and adopted if it would lead the Christian society to stability, tranquillity, and a peaceful and free existence. No one came with an alternative. The decisions were adopted as a result of mutual confidence among all and not the result of cunning, lies, deception, and hypocrisy.

Dr Karamah added: If the Phalange Party were to change its goals or principles, then it would no longer by Phalangist. Therefore, we must preserve this institution by finding solutions which do not contradict our party regulations. This is basic, because without a Phalange Party in the way Pierre al-Jumayyil wanted it, there would no longer be a meaning in resistance, struggle, and the cause.

This party is necessary for the continued existence of the homeland. Therefore, we will not abandon the responsibilities firmly established in our minds. Rest assured that the Phalange Party is much stronger during difficult times than during ordinary ones.

Dr Karamah then addressed the following appeal to the Christians:

I call upon you to be conscientious and adhere to the safeguarding of the Phaangist unity and of the Christian ranks. I also call upon you to return to the Phalangist roots, origin, and nobility.

The Phalange Party opens its heart to all with the love that has characterized it since its establishment so that it may be the Christian society's impregnable wall in the face of all dangers surrounding it.

The Phalangist institution, the Pierre al-Jumayyil institution which has produced Bashir al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese resistance institution, is the guarantee for your existence. It calls upon you all without discrimination to consolidate the ranks and stifle all the attempts to sow intrigue and fighting.

Following the discussions, some Political Bureau members proposed the formation of a mini-committee which would hold continuous meetings to find a peaceful and logical solution to the crisis without abandoning the basic condition of causing no harm to the party institution, legitimacy, and the homeland's safety. They affirmed that a solution is not impossible if based on sound, vigilant, and responsible principles.

The discussions affirmed that the Phalange Party is an undying spirit. The proof of this is the large attendance of the members of the Political Bureau and Central Council today and everyone's rallying around the party leadership.

A further proof is that all resort to Pierre al-Jumayyil's statements to explain the fact. They insisted on the need not to approach the situation with the logic of conqueror and vanquished, because the Phalange Party, which is a spirit, is victorious always.

They called for patience and for not being dragged into what is being planned by the enemies, or resorting to infighting. They affirmed that there is a price for each solution, but that this price should not be the safety of the Christian society and its [word indistinct] and the safety of the party and its future.

Junblatt Vows To 'Break Necks' of Phalangists

NC171135 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt addressed a public rally in Al-Mukhtarah this morning marking the 8th anniversary of the martyrdom of the immortal teacher Kamal Junblatt.

He said: Had they listened to Kamal Junblatt in 1976 and accepted his principles and stands calling for a military resolution of the situation and the need to implement the temporary program of the national parties and forces, we would not be in the present situation and the Phalangists would not be in control of the destiny of this country.

Walid Junblatt added: If they had listened to Kamal Junblatt, Israel would not have been able to stir communal and religious conflicts and there would have been no calls for the establishment of sectarian homelands. We would have spared the country tragedies and catastrophes. We would have eradicated this Phalangist cancer from the Lebanese body and saved both Lebanon and the Christians from this sickness, evil, and epidemic. However, what happened has happened and history cannot be reversed.

Concerning the so-called Phalangist Forces uprising led by Samir Ja'ja', Walid Junblatt said: The so-called uprising has unmasked the truth about the Phalangist plan. They are trying to distort this truth by saying that the uprising is a struggle between hawks and doves, between the legitimate authority and rebels, between the Ja'ja' group and the Amin al-Jumayyil group. In fact, they are two faces of the same coin. The ferocity of the Phalangist plan has become clear.

Those who claim they are Christians are the same people who massacred Christians in Ihdin and Al-Safra and who killed nationalist Christians. They claim they are Christians to expand the areas under their control. This is the real danger threatening the unity of Lebanon and the Arab world.

Walid Junblatt added: Israel, the United States, and reaction want to partition us along communal lines. No, we will not accept this program. We will remain loyal to Kamal Junblatt's heritage. We will adhere more than ever before to the temporary program of the parties.

Kamal's message is the message of honorable patriots who were martyred for the national cause, among them M'aruf Sa'd. We will unite as we united in the past — from Ra's al-Nab' to 'Aytat, to the suburbs, to Iqlim al-Kharrub, to Sidon, to the south, to western Al-Biqa', and to Tripoli. We will break the necks of those who claim they are Christians. This is the only way to confront this new-old plot.

Therefore, we must be vigilant. We must increase our armament, fortification, and training. We must follow the course of martyr Kamal Junblatt.

Reportage on Lebanese Forces Emergency Committee

Emergency Committee Issues Statement

NC151555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1535 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Emergency Committee held its first meeting at the house of Mrs Solange Bashir al-Jumayyil on Friday 15 March and issued the following statement:

1. The Emergency Committee anounces the opening of all roads in the eastern area. It also announces the adoption of measures necessary to restore normal life there.
2. The Emergency Committee has agreed to form a central council representing all Christians with their various institutions, functionaries, and affiliations.
3. The Emergency Committee has decided to communicate with the various Lebanese sides and with Syria.

Abu Nadir Chairs Meeting

NC152006 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Command official spokesman on 15 March — read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command held a meeting at its headquarters, under the chairmanship of Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir, in the presence of its members. The conferees discussed the current developments and declared the following:

1. The Command Council acquainted itself with the activities of the Emergency Committee, which at noon today held its first meeting after its formation by the Command Council yesterday. This committee is functioning temporarily to deal with the conditions on the round and to prepare a new concept for the forces.

2. The Lebanese Forces consider the establishment of a Christian Council, including all the Christian institutions and functionaries, as one of the main principles for organizing the Christian society in an effective, democratic, and comprehensive manner.

3. The Command Council has decided to delegate, in addition to Charles Ghustin, its member Fawzi Mahfuz to participate in the activities of the followup committee which emerged from the Christian meeting.

Khaddam Declines Meeting Delegation

NC161222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Karim Baqraduni, a member of the Emergency Committee, contacted Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and expounded on the causes of the recent crisis. Baqraduni asked Khaddam to receive a delegation representing the Emergency Committee. The latter, however, told him that Syria handles Lebanese affairs through legitimate channels, represented by the national unity government. He said that Syria has commented on the course taken by those responsible for recent developments in the eastern part of Lebanon, in light of links between a number of them and non-Lebanese parties harmful to Lebanon's interests and the Arab nation.

During the call, Khaddam also said that any contacts with Lebanon will take place through legitimate channels. Khaddam already contacted the president of the Republic and affirmed Syria's position in this respect. Thus the picture, confused 2 days ago, has begun to clear, particularly in view of reports on the possibility of Khaddam's visiting Beirut early next week and the fact that Ministers Birri and Junblatt are still in Damascus to continue talks with Syrian officials.

Baqraduni News Conference

NC171808 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Report on news conference held by Karim Baqraduni, member of the Lebanese Forces Emergency Committee, at the Radio Free Lebanon studio in East Beirut on 17 March]

[Text] The news conference held by Karim Baqraduni to explain the positions, goals, and framework of action of the 12 March Movement, has ended. Baqraduni was first asked about the possibility of interference by Syria under the pretext of defending legitimacy. Baqraduni replied: My communications with Syrian officials permit me to say that there will be no Syrian incursion into our areas. I emphasize that my communications with Syrian officials were good. I will communicate again with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam during the next 48 hours.

Baqraduni was then asked: Does this mean that you will go to Damascus?

He replied: A date has not yet been set.

Asked about the contents of his talks with Khaddam, Baqraduni responded: During my talks with Khaddam I emphasized that the uprising is not an Israeli movement. I stressed that it is not a coup attempt against President al-Jumayyil. I also emphasized that the uprising's objective is to create change within our society democratically to ensure the participation of the overwhelming majority of Christians in this movement. I stressed to Khaddam that this uprising has succeeded and that it has achieved its goals.

Baqraduni was then asked: Is Israel behind this movement?

He responded: I affirm in the name of the uprising that our movement has no connection with Israel.

What course will the Lebanese Forces uprising follow? Answering this question, Baqraduni said: The Forces uprising is not new. It is the result of at least 1 or 1 and 1/2 years of suffering. The uprising stems from a desire and determination to make radical changes inside Christian society to serve as a model for changing all of Lebanese society. The course of action will be varied and flexible. We do not differentiate between reformist and revolutionary means; we will use both.

Asked if the uprising could lead to the overthrow of the Lebanese regime, Baqraduni replied: The uprising will act through the Lebanese regime. It does not seek to harm the Lebanese legitimate Lebanese headed by the institution of the Presidency.

What is your opinion of President Amin al-Jumayyil? Baqraduni replied: I repeat that we do not want to harm the republic's presidency or the president, particularly when the president's name is Amin al-Jumayyil. The Lebanese president's position is difficult. I believe that all current efforts should be aimed toward improving the position of the Republic's Presidency. We are an uprising within the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Phalangist Party. For this uprising to preserve these two institutions, we will not harm any symbol of the Lebanese legitimacy. On the contrary, when the first request was made to deploy the Lebanese Army at some positions, it was immediately deployed within a few hours. We are a movement whose objective is to make Christian society and the Phalangist Party more democratic.

Regarding Christian society, many have felt recently that the Christian freedoms are being suppressed and that the Christians cannot express their views. Our first declared goal is the establishment of a Christian national council in which all Christian organizations, parties and sects will be represented. We will soon announce the constituent body, which will prepare the council's charter and constitution.

Baqraduni was then told: The president of the Republic is being blamed for communicating with Syria. You follow the same path.

He answered: He is not being blamed for communicating with Syria. He is being blamed because of the policy he pursues with Syria.

Baqraduni was asked again about the uprising's position toward Israel. He said: We are a collective leadership. We have not yet decided on our policy toward Israel.

Baqraduni was asked: How do you explain the presence of Israeli ships along the Lebanese coast?

He answered: I emphasize that what you depict as Israeli boats were merely ships which took us from Beirut to Juniyah when the coastal road was cut off.

Baqraduni was asked: Do you believe that Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir supports the movement's ideas and proposals? Is he still commander of the Lebanese Forces?

He answered: Dr Abu Nadir is still the commander of the Lebanese Forces. He issued an official statement supporting the uprising's policy regarding the Lebanese Forces. A provisional, collective leadership has been formed, called the Forces Emergency Committee. This committee is currently conducting the affairs of the Lebanese Forces. We are thinking about the announcement of a new command of the Lebanese Forces.

Does your movement effect the Christians and will you ask to be represented in the national government? Baqraduni responded: The issue of the Lebanese Governement does not arise at all. We are more concerned with the establishment of a national council for the Christians than with the Lebanese Government. However, we have principles which will govern our decisions. These principles are:

1. We support the unity of Lebanon and its full liberation;
2. We support a new formula for Islamic-Christian coexistence;
3. We support the security and safety of the Christian society.

On the basis of these principles, we address an appeal, particularly to Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, to conduct a dialogue with all Lebanese parties. We assure them that all the fronts have calmed down since the 12 March Movement, and that they will remain so. We hope that the government will benefit from and utilize, God willing, this political shock which had a calming effect on all the fronts, to achieve a comprehensive cease-fire.

Baqraduni was then asked: The appeal is addressed only to Birri and Junblatt. Does this mean that you are excluding the Sunnites?

He answered: I said all parties, particularly Birri and Junblatt. We do not want to exclude any community or any group. On the contrary, it is our plan to have all communities and groups participate in the dialogue.

Do you support the efforts of the national resistance in the south to expel the Israelis from Lebanese territory? Baqraduni answered: We are also a national resistance. We could support them to the extent they support us. We support the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Our relationship with the national resistance forces in the south will depend on the extent of their support for us.

Regarding the existence of direct communication between the uprising and President Amin al-Jumayyil and the nature of this communication, Baqraduni said: I have personally met with President al-Jumayyil three times since 12 March. A tripartite committee has been formed, comprising Minister Joseph al-Hashim, Michel al-Murr, and myself to deal with conditions inside the Phalangist Party. We want the president of the Republic to remain above party and sectarian disputes. We want him to be the president of the Republic — of all Lebanon — and we do not want him to be merely the president of the Christians or of militias. I believe that this is also the president's position.

What is the role of Solange Bashir al-Jumayyil? Baqraduni replied: Her role is to unite the groups that worked together with Bashir al-Jumayyil inside the Lebanese Forces.

Baqraduni was then told: The Christian conference met at B'abda and issued a statement that does not support the uprising. What is your opinion?

He answered: The Christian personalities who met in B'abda issued a statement, but these same personalities also issued another statement in Bkirki which sympathizes with the uprising. As for the area itself, everyone will grow accustomed to the uprising in time.

These were the most significant points raised by Lawyer Karim Baqraduni during his news conference this afternoon.

Reportage on Syrian Moves Into Lebanon

KUNA: Syrians Moving South

LD161227 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, 16 Mar (KUNA) — Syrian armored forces have begun to move in northern Lebanon along the coastal road at Al-Madrun bridge, which separates northern Lebanon from Jabal Lubnan.

Local journalists told KUNA in an urgent dispatch that Syrian tanks have been seen amassing in that region.

These journalists believe that the Syrian tanks and personnel carriers are planning to move southward to crush the rebellion by Samir Ja'ja', one of the commanders of the Lebanese Phalangist forces.

Syria recently threatened through a number of senior official "those Zionized" [mutassyyinin] saying that it will stop their moves and expressed support for the Lebanese legality under President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Talas Affirms Syrian Moves

NC161249 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas today affirmed that Syrian forces in northern Lebanon began moves to help the Lebanese Army and to prevent a deterioration of the situation in the area.

Security sources of the Lebanese Forces have denied that there are any unusual military movements in the Al-Batrun area.

Movement in Al-Batrun, Al-Kurah

NC170636 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The areas of Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah, where Syrian forces are operating within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Forces, are witnessing vehicular military movements.

Eyewitnesses in these areas report that tank columns, rocket launchers, heavy artillery pieces, and trucks are moving toward the demarcation lines and positions occupied by Samir Ja'ja' forces.

The Ja'ja' forces have also strengthened their positions since the beginning of the uprising. These moves have been described as precautionary measures taken in anticipation of any contingency.

'Large' Units, Tanks Observed

NC171455 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A state of anticipation and caution describes the situation in the various areas of the conflict for control and influence between the Phalangist militias and the Samir Ja'ja' group. According to security reports, there are units of vehicles in Al-Dawrah and Nahr al-Kalb. Tanks have been observed moving northward. These reports confirm that the Ja'ja' group has been placed in a state of emergency and that armed checkpoints have been set up on all roads. The reports add that there are also vehicle units in Junayl and Al-Batrun. It has been learned that about 150 Syrian vehicles moved from the north toward Al-Batrun approximately 30 minutes ago.

Our correspondent in the north has confirmed that very large Syrian vehicular and military units are gathering near Jisr al-Madfun. There are launchers and huge vehicles. The units are awaiting orders to move toward Beirut. Our correspondent adds that Al-Maradah [Franjiyah's militas] have been placed in a state of maximum alert, and that they are ready to move toward Al-Batrun and Al-'Aqurah ridges if necessary.

Ja'ja' Group Reportedly Ready To Confront Syria

NC171455 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Observers point out that military confrontation is inevitable to restore matters to normal and to prevent a new Zionist penetration into Lebanon. These observers note that the Ja'ja' group has sharpened its hostile tone toward Syria. Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir recently announced that this group is prepared for a military confrontation with the Syrians.

Former Lebanese President Franjiyah Visits Damascus

Received by Al-Asad

JN161133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received the former Lebanese president, Sulayman Franjiyah, and his son, Robert Franjiyah, at 1315 today. The former Lebanese president arrived in Damascus at 1215 today on a visit to Syria. He was received in the 'Adra area by Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh. In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Franjiyah said: We have come to Syria to congratulate President Hafiz al-Asad on the beginning of his new term and on the popular confidence that he honestly deserved from his people. We have also come to congratulate the fraternal Arab Syrian people and their struggler President Hafiz al-Asad on the 22d anniversary of the glorious March revolution.

Al-Asad Holds Banquet

JN161447 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert Franjiyah at 1315 today. The meeting was later joined by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh.

President Franjiyah congratulated the president on his reelection to a third constitutional term as president of the Syrian Arab Republic and wished Syria and the Arabs under Al-Asad's presidency further successes and victories. The talks revolved around the current situation in the Lebanese arena in light of recent suspect developments and moves.

President Hafiz al-Asad gave a luncheon banquet in honor of former President Franjiyah and Robert Franjiyah. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh.

Talks With Al-Asad

JN161852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received the former Lebanese president, Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert Franjiyah. The meeting was joined later by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh.

President Franjiyah congratulated the president on his reelection to a third constitutional term as president of the Syrian Arab Republic and wished Syria and the Arabs under Al-Asad's presidency further successes and victories. The talks revolved around the current situation in the Lebanese arena in light of recent suspect developments and moves that seek to hamepr national accord and to return civil war to Lebanon.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's support for the legitimate Lebanese authority and its resolute backing of this legitimacy and efforts to strengthen the march of national accord.

Meets With Birri, Junblatt

JN162012 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA) — A meeting was held in Damascus this evening between the former Lebanese president, Sulayman Franjiyah, Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, and Robert Franjiyah. The conferees discussed recent developments in some Lebanese areas by a group that has suspect relations with the Israeli enemy, which in turn is supported by the United States. They also discussed the threats these developments pose to Lebanon's unity, economy, the safety and security of its citizens, and the future of its sons through the possible return of fighting and civil war and its consequent threats.

These serious developments have come at a time when the Israeli enemy began withdrawing from the occupied Lebanese territory under the pressure of the valiant Lebanese nationalist resistance and the steadfastness of the Lebanese people. They occurred at a time when the march of national accord had begun to achieve tangible progress through the support of fraternal Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions to save Lebanon, and safeguard its unity and its territory. The conferees agreed on the following:

1. To call on all Lebanese to be vigilant, cautious, and ready to defend Lebanon, its people and land; they also call on them to reject all devilish divisionist plans, concepts, and approaches, especially since all that group's policies, plans, opinions, actions, and practices pose a threat to Lebanon's security and unity;

2. To support Lebanese legitimacy and its institutions and to stand beside the state and back it against this serious plot;

3. To continue work to achieve national accord, especially since it is the only way to guarantee the Lebanese people's unity, future, and prosperity;

4. To call on the state to adopt decisive stands toward the United States, which supports the Zionist enemy and its agents.

The conferees also agreed to contact all Lebanese personalities and leaders to reach a general unified stand that would enable them to assume their national responsibilities. The conferees stressed that they will not hesitate to confront these developments if they continue.

Departs Damascus

JN171030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1015 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text]The former Lebanese president, Sulayman Franjiyah, and his son Robert Franjiyah left Damascus this morning following a brief visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. President Franjiyah was seen off at 'Adra by Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh.

Talas Confirms Military Move in Lebanon

JN161233 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The Syrian Army deputy commander in chief and defense minister emphasized to our radio this afternoon that a Syrian military move has taken place in northern Lebanon on the coastal road leading from Nahr Madfun, southward to Beriut.

In reply to a question from our radio about the reports from some local radio stations in Lebanon to the effect that Syrian tanks are moving along the coastal road from Nahr Madfun, southweat to Beirut, General Talas confirmed this move. He said it is aimed at helping President Amin al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese legitimacy, in accordance with Syria's firm decision to support the Lebanese legitimacy.

Gen Talas stressed that Syria cannot take an indifferent stand toward the attempt to sabotage the march of national accord in Lebanon. However, Gen Talas added that this Syrian military move is aimed at helping the Lebanese Army avert the exacerbation of the situation.

It is noted that this move comes in the wake of the two clear, serious warnings Syria made yesterday, 14 hours apart, to the Lebanese forces rebelling against President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Talas Interviewed on Revolution Anniversary

PM151503 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Mar 85 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Defense Minister and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Army and the Armed Forces General Mustafa Talas by Hani al-Sham'ah in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Our country these days is celebrating the 22d anniversary of the glorious 8 March Revolution. Would you on this occasion tell us about the development of our valiant Armed Forces?

Answer: As we celebrate the 22d anniversary of the 8 March Revolution we feel great pride in what we have achieved both on the national level and the regional level. When our country is referred to in the foreign media as "modern Syria" this is an indication of the degree of progress, prosperity, and development that the corrective movement under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership has achieved in two parallel directions. The first is the building and construction that has turned our Syrian Arab region into a workshop and a field of production in all aspects of life. The second was the building of our valiant Armed Forces that have become so strong and impregnable that the enemy has to continually reiterate that it is the biggest and only danger to him. In fact, leader Al-Asad's sound directives have achieved great strength for our heroic Army; this was clearly evident in the battles that our heroic fighters have fought, particularly in the October liberation war and in the battles of Lebanon.

In fact our valiant Army, which launched the 8 March Revolution, ended the hateful separatism, and laid down firm principles for an Arab unity that aligned the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean against the forces of invasion and aggression, has fulfilled its promise and expressed itself in glorious stands by resisting all the criminal attempts aimed at liquidating the cause of Arab struggle and causing our nation to despair and surrender. The Army is continuing to resist the enemies and their agents with greater strength and resolve. What is currently happening in our area is a clear indication of the fact that those enemies and their conspiring agents who wanted to subjugate us to their will have begun to disappear, retreat, and withdraw. The events that have followed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon are eloquent proof of the harm that the hostile forces have brought upon themselves after having ignored the Arab people's will, strength, and nobility.

Question: Is it possible to tell us about the national role our Armed Forces have played and are still playing in the present conditions facing our Arab nation?

Answer: In fact our Armed Forces have devoted all their resources and capabilities to serving the Arab masses everywhere in the great Arab homeland. Consequently, they have fought honorable battles in defense of the Arab nation's causes, especiallythe Palestinian cause which they have adopted as the heart of their struggle and principal objective and for which they have offered many sacrifices and martyres. When leader Al-Asad declares "Palestine first and Golan second," he is expressing the will of the Arab masses and placing before them the real dimensions of our struggle, and mobilizing all the Arab resources in order to destroy all mainstays of invasion, aggression, and expansion.

Every Arab is proud of the national role our Armed Forces have played and are still playing, particularly since the early seventies when they fought the October liberation war as part of this great role; this is an expression of our firm resolve to liberate what the enemies have usurped and a confirmation of the established fact that what has been taken by force can be regained only by force.

As for the role our Armed Forces played in Lebanon its results are now clearer than ever. These results are evident in the enemy's failure to achieve his objectives of partitioning and fragmenting Lebanon and turning it into a central base to launch his operations to subjugate our Arab nation and implement his aggressive and expansionist plans. Thus the enemy has failed to entrench himself in the territory of Arab Lebanon as a major step toward imposing the Camp David conspiracy which primarily aims at liquidating the Arab struggle. We now see the enemy weakening in southern Lebanon and trying to withdraw quickly from the quagmire in which it is sinking under the blows of the Lebanese national resistance fighters. The enemy, with the support of imperialism, is trying to yet a breathing space and to lighten the repeated blows dealt to him by perpetrating more crimes and massacres and by seeking the assistance of his agents in the area; this is in order to reach solutions that on the surface seem to be peace but underneath mean surrender, capitulation, and liquidation of the most sacred cause in our contemporary history.

However, neither the Husayn-'Arafat clique nor the Camp David clique, or anybody for that matter, can subject our Arab nation to their will. Certainly the so-called 'Arafat-Husayn accord also was stillborn. It will join the Camp David agreement and the 17 May agreement. Only our Arab nation's will will remain triumphant; it will smash all the idols, the advocates, and the weaklings. The people's will is God's will.

Question: Could you tell us about the role the Lebanese national resistance has played and is still playing in the confrontation with the criminal Zionist invasion?

Answer: This heroic resistance speaks for itself through its heroic feats against the enemy. It has harassed the enemy and exacerbated the big split in the Zionist racist entity. In the meantime the resistance has once again proved that our people's will cannot be subdued regardless of whatever the enemies resort to in repression, aggression, and crime. When the Zionist officials claim that revolutionary Syria is involved in this resistance or that it supports it, this claim is a source of pride and dignity for us because Al-Asad's Syria represents the Arab nation's will with all its dimensions and spheres. We once again say that we stand with the Lebanese national resistance because it is struggling against occupation and resisting invasion and aggression, and because it is aspiring to liberation from the enemies of freedom and humanity.

Question: Certain steps have been accomplished in the field of achieving strategic balance with the Zionist enemy. Could you tell us something about this? What does this balance aim at and what are its dimensions?

Answer: Strategic balance with the Zionist enemy is not an alternative to unity and joint Arab action. It can never be so. Since we called for this strategy several years ago we have considered our broad Arab masses as its main constituent and real core because the achievement of such a balance is indeed for defending the Arab nation.

In fact we have made great progress in the field of achieving strategic balance with the enemy regarding manpower both in quantity and quality and in the field of armament and modern military equipment. In our war alongside Lebanon, several important features of the strategic balance with the enemy emerged. We are continuing to make progress in this direction by depending on our growing intrinsic power and on our friends in the world, foremost of which is the Soviet Union; the Soviet Union also supports us and takes our side in the conflict with the Zionist enemy which is backed by imperialism and its allies with all means of strength.

As we celebrate the 22d anniversary of the glorious 8 March Revolution we stand with pride and dignity at one of the most significant junctures in history from which we can proceed along with our people's glorious march under the leadership of their great leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad in order to continue the struggle and further consolidate the fortresses of steadfastness and confrontation.

Construction Minister Returns From Soviet Union

JN161519 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1452 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA) — Construction Minister Riyad Baghdadi returned here from Moscow today following a 15-day working visit to the Soviet Union. Upon arrival, Baghdadi stated that during the visit he signed contracts that complement the previous contract between the two countries on importing machines and equipment. He also signed a contract to supply spare parts for these machines and two other contracts: one on maintaining machines and equipment and the other providing equipment for maintenance centers and training for Syrian technicians in reparing and maintaining this equipment. The equipment and spare parts will be imported in stages as of next month.

Ba'th Officials Receive Bulgarian CP Delegation

Regional Command Member

JN161636 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA) — A meeting took place here today between Comrade Fayiz al-Nasir, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the regional organization office, and a delegation of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] currently visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. At the beginning of the meeting, Comrade al-Nasir welcomed the guest delegation and briefed it on the history of the Ba'th Party, its continuous struggle, and the circumstances the party underwent in confronting all sorts of internal and external conspiracies against the country. They reviewed the difficult circumstances that the Arab nation in general and Syria in particular underwent and are still undergoing and their confrontation of all imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary challenges under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

The head of the BCP delegation hailed the accomplishments he saw during his visit to Syria. He also hailed the cooperative relations linking Syria and Bulgaria in the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries. He referred to the important role Syria is playing against imperialist and Zionist schemes in the region.

Inspection Committee Chairman

JN161439 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA) — Today Comrade Ghassan Abu Tawq, chairman of the supervision and inspection committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here a Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] delegation led by Comrade Stoyu Kyosev, member of the BCP Central Committee Central Control and Auditing Commission. They discussed cooperation between the Ba'th Party and friendly socialist parties and emphasized the need to promote these relations in a way that serves joint interests.

Commentary Views Results of Mubarak's U.S. Visit

JN161252 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1126 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the head of the Camp David regime in Egypt went to Washington carrying with him what was termed an initiative to push the momentum of peace in the Middle East. A big uproar was created around this initiative, and certain Arab quarters prtrayed the head of the Egyptian regime's proposals as the key to the peace process, to the heart of the U.S. Administration, and to the mind of the U.S. President. They said that these proposals would enable certain Arab sides that have chosen the path of defeatism and capitulation to openly join the U.S.-Israeli settlement process.

The Egyptian regime paved the way for the Washington visit with a series of actions and statements that constituted new concessions to the United States and Israel. Tabah talks were held in Beersheba, Cairo emissaries went to Israel, Israeli emissaries came to Cairo, an Egyptian presidential envoy went to Bucharest to meet with Shim'on Peres, Egyptian regime circles publicized the agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat, Cairo security authorities announced the arrest of what they termed communist elements that sought to overthrow the regime by force, and so on. They were all Egyptian attempts to appease Washington. More than all of these appeasements, the Egyptian regime's proposals themselves constituted a major concession to Israel and the United States, and a deviation from the Rabat summit resolution and the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions concerning the Palestine question and the Middle East.

The head of the Egyptian regime went to Washington with two purposes: First, his proposals which were termed an initiative; and second, his request for reducing the interest on U.S. military loans to Egypt and rescheduling these debts. The head of the Egyptian regime returned from Washington disappointed. The American President and the U.S. Administration turned down his proposals and request. Nobody in Washington even cared about the formalities that would have saved face for the head of the Egyptian regime, who surrendered everything to the United States and Israel and antagonized all the Arabs. What happened to the head of the Egyptian regime in Washington was not new to the Arabs, who placed their eggs in the American basket and wanted the United States to pressure Israel so that it would go back on its stands, which are hostile to the Arabs and conflict with UN resolutions. It was said that the head of the Egyptian regime was humiliated more than the Arabs, who claimed that all the cards were in U.S. hands and that the Arabs should appease the United States to make it pressure Israel in their interest.

The United States has not changed its attitude either toward Israel or the Arabs. The closer the Arabs got to the United States, the closer the United States got to Israel, until U.S. policy in the region has become Israeli policy, and economic and military aid has become the secret of Israel's continued existence and its ability for aggression, expansion, and continuous defiance of the United Nations.

The Arabs' pursuance of the U.S. option means one concession after another and more humiliation. Whoever begs in Washington will only get humiliation and indifference. After what has happened him to Washington, the head of the Egyptian regime must now know more than before that the path of Egypt's return to its natural place in the Arab fold does not pass through Washington, and that the Camp David accords are not the return ticket to the Arab homeland. The dignity of Egypt and its leader will not be vindicated by making concessions to the enemies of the Arabs, headed by Egypt — that is, to the United States.

Perhaps the Washington trip will make the head of the Egyptian regime seek another initiative, the kind that is wanted by the Egyptian people and the Arab masses. There is no dignity for a leader who depends on the enemies, but there is complete dignity for the one who depends on the masses.

Ba'th Party Issues Memo on Israeli Actions in Lebanon

JN162054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command addressed a memorandum to fraternal and friendly parties today on the Israeli occupation forces' terrorist actions against citizens in fraternal southern Lebanon. In its memorandum the National Command pointed out that the Israeli invasion forces have launched a large-scale repressive and terrorist campaign against civilians in occupied southern Lebanon. These forces have used thousands of soldiers, hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles, and a large number of war planes to annihilate the greatest possible number of citizens, to expel them, and to destroy their houses and villages. The memorandum explained that this premeditated camapign and its hideous and brutal methods seek to completely paralyze the economy and destroy life in these areas.

The National Command stressed the involvement of the United States in these criminal actions through its complete support for Israel in continuing this policy and by preventing the international community from denouncing Israel with its use of the veto in the UN Security Council. The National Command stressed that Israel will not be able to achieve its objectives of subjugating the occupied areas despite its hideous and brutal actions; this is due to the southern Lebanese people's heroic confrontation, their strong will, and determination to adhere to the land and offer sacrifices through the support from our party and its revolution in Syria and the support of all the factions of the Arab liberation movement. The National Command stressed that the citizens in southern Lebanon will achieve victory, be able to expel the Zionist occupation forces, and liberate all Lebanese soil.

The National Command called on all fraternal and friendly parties to express, by all possible means, their soldiarity with the citizens in occupied southern Lebanon and the hero Lebanese nationalist resistance in order to condemn the Israeli invasion forces' terrorist practices, to end these forces' fierce campaign, and to force them to withdraw from Lebanon without condition or restrictions.

Military Leaders Interviewed on IDF Withdrawal

Defense Minister Rabin

TA151238 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Mar 85 Weekend Supplement pp 1, 18

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Eytan Haber —date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Mr Rabin, do defense ministers also cry?

Answer: I cannot speak for other defense ministers, but if you are addressing the question to me personally I will tell you: No, defense ministers do not cry but they bitterly and painfully hurt over the loss of Israeli soldiers. The defense minister is totally responsible for everything happening in the Army, including operational plans and equipment, but he is first and foremost responsible for the men who are the only natural resource we possess. This week I visited a position near the Al-Qawasimiyah bridge, a few hours after two of its soldiers, Yeshiva students who serve in the IDF, were killed. I spoke to their friends. A soldier told me about one of the victims with whom he had studied and sat next to in the Yeshiva for 6 years. He cried, I encouraged him, and we continued to talk.

Something any army commander — and certainly a defense minister or prime minister — must do is to bear in mind the soldiers and their relatives in the process of making decisions. Every time you make a decision you ask yourself: Is this decision vital to the point of risking the life of even one soldier? More than once, when discussing proposals for some military operation — both when I was a military man and in my present capacity as defense minister — I asked myself: Is it worthwhile? Is it really worthwhile and vital to do something that risks soldiers' lives?

Question: Recently, during the "heavy-handed" policy period, there have been more terrorist attacks than during the period preceding implementation of the "heavy-handed" policy, as it is called by the media. How do you explain the increase in the number of attacks and casualties in the face of this policy?

Answer: The term "heavy-handed" policy is used by the media. The question we had to tackle was whether, in its current deployment, the IDF should be satisfied with conducting patrols, manning positions, staking ambushes, and exposing itself to terrorist attacks. At some point, the rate of the attacks increased and it seemed to me that the IDF had to use two methods: Ordinary operations and initiated ones, in other words, to get to those towns and villages in Lebanon that we know for a fact provide refuge to terrorists and have weapons stashed away. Our initiated operations enable us to distinguish between those who take part in attacks against us and the rest of the population, and by imposing a blockade on the villages we can search for at least some of the weapons and terrorists, and establish contact with the terrorists on *our own* terms.

Almost exclusively, in all the "blockades" we have imposed so far — there have been 15 to 20 of them — terrorists were killed and weapons were seized. Even the film shot by the Lebanese this week did not and could not show a woman or child being hurt in the IDF operation, and believe me, they would have loved to show that if they could. If you ask me whether the recent IDF operations had an impact, my answer is: Yes, they had an impact! The large number of casualties we sustained this week were caused by one suicidal mission. Excluding this lethal and painful attack, the overall number of IDF casualties has decreased in the wake of the latest operations.

Question: However, the number of attacks has increased, and who better than you knows that casualties are frequently caused by bad luck....

Answer: When listing the number of attacks, we should distinguish between a bomb planted by the side of the road and a katyusha or RPG fired in the middle of the night. Most recent attacks involved firing attacks rather than bombs planted by the road.

Question: Does that mean that the nature of the attacks has changed?

Answer: I am not saying that this is a dramatic change. Moreover, I do not think these kind of operations produce perfect results, certainly not in the short term. However, I am convinced that in the wake of the "blockades," the uncovering of weapons, and the arrest of terrorists we have curbed the number of attacks that might have been launched against us had we not carried out these operations. For example, in one of the "blockades" we found two booby-trapped cars ready for a kamikaze operation. These were detonated by the IDF. We also apprehended those who were sent from Beirut to drive the bomb cars. Incidentally, one of them was a 15-year-old boy who was prepared for the mission by an extreme Shi'ite clergyman in Beirut.

Question: Was he prepared to commit suicide?

Answer: He was caught next to the car.

Question: The argument these days is that we are turning the Shi'ites into a group that will be our staunch enemies after the withdrawal.

Answer: I believe there is a real danger that the Shi'ite leadership — both of the less extreme Amal organization and certainly the extreme Khomeynistic bodies such as the Hezbollah — have passed the point of no return in their hatred of the IDF, and perhaps of Israel as well. As for assuming that the Shi'ite problem will be settled in the wake of the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon: We would like to hope this will be the case!

Question: Do you think developments in the north will evolve differently?

Answer: It is hard for me to base or build the defense of our northern border on optimistic assumptions. In Lebanon, the worst scenarios have usually come true. I cannot recall any positive assumption materializing.

Question: Do you believe that terrorism will continue?

Answer: Terrorism from Lebanon will continue. The 'Peace for Galilee' operation did not eliminate terrorism from Lebanon; it will continue to exist and pose a threat to the State of Israel. Although the PLO was dealt a blow, Palestinian terrorism will continue and so will Shi'ite terrorism, which has a far more serious potential than Palestinian terror.

Question: Who will we blame for Shi'ite terror?

Answer: We will blame the current leadership and the leadership that will emerge in southern Lebanon. It will be held responsible in its capacity as the leader of the Shi'ite inhabitants of southern Lebanon. It will be held responsible for all the people in the area, including those in the Palestinian refugee camps. It may very well be that when this leadership is established — and I hope it is — the fact that we are getting out of Lebanon will solve the problem, and if that is the case, so much the better. Otherwise, we will accomplish coexistence through a confrontation that will initially be painful.

Question: In other words, we will hold Nabih Birri responsible for the attacks?

Answer: He and others, or another leadership. I hope a distinct and consolidated leadership of the Shi'ite community in southern Lebanon emerges. Then, we will at least have somebody to talk to, in the absence of another address in Lebanon.

Question: Are we looking for ways to establish a dialogue with them?

Answer: We looked for over a year.

Question: What about now?

Answer: We have sent emissaries to them during my term in office and their response was evasive. They did not even agree to say that they had been in touch with us. They said: "First, get out, and then we will decide what we want to discuss with you." Similar responses were given to my predecessor, Moshe Arens.

Question: Have you despaired?

Answer: I have not despaired. I have despaired of a dialogue in the present circumstances. I hope the optimistic assumption that the very fact that we are getting out will eliminate the anti-Israel Shi'ite motivation comes true when the government's decision is implemented and we redeploy along the international border. I am not so optimistic as to think that this will be the case.

Question: What will happen?

Answer: I foresee a certain period of confrontation with the Shi'ites, even when we are deployed along the international border. In this period of confrontation, if it does come about, we will have to illustrate to that same Shi'ite leadership that its responsibility is all-encompassing, that it is not only responsible for the struggle but also for the life and existence of the densely populated Shi'ite area. We will emphasize to them that they only have two options: Either there is calm on both sides or, if they attack us, their lives will be disrupted in such a manner that they will be ready to coexist by default, just as the PLO arrived at the same conclusion, to a certain extent, in 1981.

Question: Are you talking about the southern area?

Answer: Only the area of southern Lebanon poses a problem and a threat to the safety of our northern settlements. In the eastern sector, where there might be more Palestinian terrorists operating under Syrian inspiration, there will be another type of struggle for which we will also have to find a solution.

Question: What is the situation of the terrorists at present?

Answer: I estimate that terrorist activities in the western sector will depend on Shi'ite consent in the future. The situation will be entirely different than the one that existed before the Lebanese war when the PLO was the dominant factor, by virtue of its military power, despite its numerical disadvantage when compared to the Shi'ites. The situation will be different now: The Shi'ite majority will be dominant! Insofar as cooperation between the Shi'ites and the PLO is concerned, this makes no difference to me in the context of the confrontation with the Shi'ites in the western sector.

Question: Are the terrorists also firing at us?

Answer: They are not a relevant factor, except in the refugee camps such as 'Ayn al-Hulwah and in Beirut. Their activities represent a very small percentage of the total number of attacks against us.

Question: Perhaps they are getting ready to attack us?

Answer: The initial struggle will be among the Palestinians, between 'Arafat's and Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha] men, for control over the camps. In Sidon and Tyre, 'Arafat's men stand a better chance of taking over the camps. In the eastern sector and in northern Lebanon, Abu Musa's chances are better.

Question: Can the second phase of the withdrawal be shortened?

Answer: I suppose that everything will be done to shorten it and, theoretically, it is possible to simultaneously combine parts of the second and third phases. I hope the Cabinet will make the decisions in time to enable the fastest possible evacuation.

Question: What keeps us from combining the second and third phases of the withdrawal and deploying along the international border within 3 months or less? Who is preventing us?

Answer: I do not think the second and third phases can be implemented at the same time but certain parts of the third phase may be carried out simultaneously with the second phase.

Question: Why not the entire second phase and the entire third phase?

Answer: I cannot elaborate.

Question: Who is opening fire on us in Lebanon today? Can the perpetrators be identified as a group? Are they 12-year-old boys, 80-year-old men, Shi'ites, or PLO terrorists?

Answer: As a rule, 90 percent of the attacks are carried out by the Shi'ite organizations. The central and most influential organization in southern Lebanon at present is the Amal.

Question: Are their terrorists organized in cells, squads, and groups?

Answer: The Shi'ite community is not organized. The most organized body within the Shi'ite community is the Amal. This is a local body with headquarters in Beirut. However, this body is not in full control. Even within the Amal there are struggles, such as that between Nabih Birri and his deputy and others. The Amal headquarters is not in full control and its influence is not absolute.

Question: Does the headquarters in Beirut issue the orders to attack us?

Answer: The headquarters issues orders in general terms, but occasionally they are more elaborate. However, the daily operations are overseen by the Amal's local bodies. There are plenty of weapons in Lebanon.

Question: Being the defense minister, does it not bother you that the IDF is busy looking after itself, is being depicted as scared and panicky in Lebanon, and is losing its aggressive image?

Answer: One of the considerations for taking the initiative, namely, to locate the perpetrators wherever they are and search for weapons in their villages — was to change the IDF's modus operandi — not just to respond but also to take the initiative. This was probably very painful to the Shi'ites or the Shi'ite terrorist organizations.

Question: You have said in the last few weeks that you believe and hope that the IDF soldiers will be back home by the eve of Rosh Hashana [mid-September]. Can you say today that they will be back home long before Rosh Hashana?

Answer: I very much hope so.

Chief of Staff Levi

TA161326 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0805 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Sir, is the IDF operationally capable of accelerating the withdrawal from Lebanon, that is, of implementing the third stage immediately after the second stage?

[Levi] I think that operationally the IDF is capable of many things. The way your question is phrased implies that the withdrawal must be accelerated and that the second and third stages should be combined. I am not sure that those who say this know exactly what the second stage entails or understand the meaning of combining the second and third stages of the withdrawal. If you ask whether the IDF is capable of doing this, the answer is yes, without any problem. Is a need for this? That is debatable. We presented the government with our opinion . If I am not mistaken, the government approved our plans on 14 January. When the first stage of the plan was ready for implementation we submitted it to the government, and it was approved. After completing the first withdrawal stage, we presented the second stage plans to the government, which approved them approximately 2 weeks ago.

I suggest that people refrain from making daily or hourly assessments of the situation. They should not go in one quick stroke from the argument — which I admit also hurt me — over the fact that the withdrawal took place on the Sabbath to panicky calls for an immediate withdrawal. That is to say, we are confronting a problem that is more complex than others because of Lebanon's distorted structure and the rivalry between the Lebanese factions, including: the part played by Khomeynism, the Syrian pressure and foothold — to use an understatement — in Lebanon, and, of course, the PLO. People are trying to look for two things in this maze: either a daily assessment of the situation according to which the IDF should act, or a magic formula. Unfortunately, I believe that if we were to act according to these assessments, we would have to change our tactics in the field every day, and I am not aware of any magic formulas.

[Tal] How would you characterize the pace of the withdrawal at the moment? Is it satisfactory or not? Could the withdrawal be accelerated?

[Levi] We are having problems regarding the withdrawal. I have not changed my mind on the issue. I have said that if we do, we will approach the government on it. What I can say is that I have not approached the government on this issue.

[Tal] There are no problems with the withdrawal except for one: The longer we remain in Lebanon, the more our soldiers are exposed to attacks.

[Levi] I would like to say that those who believe that we will not be exposed to attacks should not talk of concepts they know nothing about. Our concepts are reached through analysis, and not by choice or my personal preference. One of these concepts refers to the continual fight against terrorism on our northern border. This concept, as I said, was developed and approved based on the provision that we will deploy along the international border. I do not see any reason to change this concept. The phases of the withdrawal were taken into account in this concept. These phases should be seen as a combination of military and operational action against the terrorists. Since it is no secret that during this stage we plan to withdraw from the eastern sector, the phases should also be regarded in the context of the steps an army has to take when changing its deployment opposite a large army — in this case, the Syrian Army stationed to the north of us.

[Tal] There is something absurd about the situation. After all the army's efforts to prepare these plans and all the pressures and constrictions under which it had to maneuver, a person on the outside gets the ironical impression that the withdrawal's delay is caused by the army.

[Levi] I will repeat that I do not see any delays in the withdrawal. It depends on how you view the situation. I believe that we are carrying out an approved plan and we are not encountering any problems in its implementation. Of course, regrettably, there is the struggle and the great pain. I hope it is clear that when I say we have no problems, I do not mean we do not have a war on our hands. We are involved in a war. This war is continual, and I see no reason to define the situation as one where we can tell the soldiers to hop into their vehicles and get out. I agree that it would be easier for us to do this at the moment, but I intend to live here tomorrow too. I would not like what I am doing now to turn into a fatal mistake tomorrow.

[Tal] Why is it so important to dismantle all the structures that we see on the long convoys of trucks traveling south? Why is it so important to dismantle the electricity poles, the fences, and so on? Is this not causing an unnecessary delay and expense?

[Levi] From whichever angle you approach the issue, my answer is no. I would only like to say that this is not the only reason. If you want to make the point that this is the only reason — you have to eliminate all other reasons for the sake of your argument — then you still must bear in mind the long-term effects a retreat has on an army. I emphasize, however, that this is just to make a point. There are other issues that need to be dealt with.

[Tal] The attacks that occurred in what will be the security strip perhaps point to an attempt on the part of the terrorists to attack the IDF's underbelly, to prove that a security zone will not be set up and to show us that nowhere can we be safe. Is there any truth to this supposition?

[Levi] We would like a totally safe security zone, but such a zone does not guarantee that there will be no attacks, at least that is not how we perceive it. Therefore, attacks may occur within the security zone. If you ask whether more attacks will occur there, the answer unfortunately is that the booby-trapped car explosion, which resulted in a large number of casualties, occurred in that area. I do not think that statistically this holds for the number of unsuccessful attacks. We are not always aware of the fact that the number of unsuccessful attacks is very large; some are mentioned in the media, others are not. I agree that when an attack causes losses to our forces, it is given much more prominence.

I cannot refute the argument that somebody is pulling the strings in this area; this is something we assumed from the beginning. There were a number of attempts — I think 15 — to fire katyusha rockets from that area while we were still in the outskirts of Beirut and when we were deployed along the Al-Awwali River. The terrorists gain much more attention when they attack our forces near our border but, statistically speaking, these attacks are not numerous.

[Tal] The Cabinet decision stipulates that the security strip will rely on local forces backed by the IDF. What does IDF backing mean?

[Levi] It means backed by the IDF. The backing, I think, will depend on the circumstances. Operational responses will depend on the operation problems. Thus, the backing will not be automatic or in every situation, and I cannot determine its scope at present. Each time we will have to study the scope, the character, and the length of the backing that we will give. The backing will be implemented in all possible military spheres.

[Tal] In the past, the backing in the old southern Lebanon strip involved a presence. Does that scenario also hold at present?

[Levi] I suggest that we take care when comparing the past with the present. Heraclitus said: "You could not step twice into the same river; for other waters are ever flowing on to you." Nostalgia is usually positive, but with all respect, we have to answer to what happens in the future. I think that except for the topography and the geography, which to a certain extent have also changed, a situation will arise in which we will have to answer about the future. This is what we will do.

Leaders Reject Security Strip in S. Lebanon

Peres, Rabin

TA180816 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Tzvi Bar'el, 'Aqiva Edlar, and Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Peres and Defense Minister Rabin believe there is no room for limiting the IDF's range of action to a predetermined area since the range of katyushas exceeds 30 km. Consequently, it would be senseless to predetermine a security strip along a line that does not protect the Galilee settlements even from artillery fire.

Peres, Rabin, and other ministers — excluding Sharon and, perhaps Arens — believe it would be better to deploy the IDF along the international border while retaining the option of penetrating deep into Lebanon and striking at the terrorists.

In its capacity as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, the Cabinet yesterday heard a report by the defense minister about the attacks in Lebanon and the IDF's preparedness to avert further attacks.

Senior military sources dealing with the question of southern Lebanon argue that the planned security strip lacks any military value. According to them, katyushas would begin falling on the Galilee a few days after the IDF withdrew to the international border.

The sources believe that in light of the situation created in southern Lebanon in the last few months Israel should not settle for a narrow security strip. In their opinion, if Israel decides to delineate a security strip it should reach as far as the Al-Litani River since control over the river would effectively seal the security strip and prevent the infiltration of terrorists and weapons from the north.

The senior sources assess that the IDF will have to massively back the army of southern Lebanon within the security strip to prevent it from collapsing. According to them, the developments in southern Lebanon in the last few months will force the IDF to maintain relatively large forces for a long period of time in the security strip. The sources think that the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon currently perceive the IDF as an army lacking determination, despite the heavy-handed policy, blockades, and searches the IDF has been carrying out recently.

Rabin Warns About 'Fantasizing'

TA161025 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that it has been proven in the last 100 years that those who initiate wars are usually the ones who lose them, and this also applies to the Middle East. Syria, Rabin said, has now become Lebanon's master to a higher degree than before the Lebanese war, and the Lebanese president in Beirut has become Syria's servant.

The defense minister expressed the hope that calm would be attained along the international border with Lebanon, although, as he phrased it, we should not fantasize and talk about a 30-km strip impenetrable to terrorists.

Referring to the agreement the Likud government signed with Lebanon, which was later torn apart by the Lebanese, the defense minister said this was a sorry ending to shattered illusions and that some people still have the nerve to brag about it. Rabin was speaking at Bet Berl at a party rally of Israeli aircraft industries workers who are Labor Party members.

'Senior Military Sources'

TA161930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Senior military sources this evening warned against a permanent or continuous Israeli military presence, even a symbolic one, in a security strip north of the international border line. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that, in the view of the military sources, only an absolute IDF withdrawal from Lebanon will decrease the Shi'ite organizations' chances of continuing with terrorism.

The military sources are vigorously opposed to the delineation of a security line, believing that the IDF should be left with the right to act within any reasonable area in defense of the Galilee. The delineation of a security strip could create an IDF commitment and that could require a permanent military presence in the field.

Any attempt to make something parallel to the old southern Lebanon region would be a failure. A new situation has now been created in the field. Israel is now being depicted as the conqueror of part of Lebanon and so the only chance of neutralizing the Shi'ite terrorism, the senior military sources say, is to openly and absolutely sever all contact.

Eviction of Shi'ites From Security Strip Denied

TA180702 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] A senior Israeli military source has denied reports that Israel is trying to force the Shi'ites to move out of the security belt in south Lebanon. He was speaking in Tel Aviv. Jerry Cheslow reports:

[Begin recording] The senior source said that he knew of no organized effort to force the Shi'ites to leave the area that will become Israel's security belt. However, a few Shi'ite agitators have been banished to northern Lebanon.

The Israeli military source noted that many Shi'ites have returned to the region since Israel entered in June 1982. The population of Al-Nabatiyah has swelled from 5,000 to nearly 60,000. The previously deserted village of Al-Khiyam now has 10,000 inhabitants. The source stressed that Israel would have to ensure that it was in the interests of the residents of the security zone to prevent infiltration across the border. He implied that Israel would continue to supply them with weapons after the withdrawal.

On the revolt by Samir Ja'ja's group in the Christian Phalangists, the source said there was no direct Israeli involvement. However, they might have weapons that Israel had supplied to the Christians in the past. [end recording]

Sharon Addresses Commerce Club on Lebanon

TA151619 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1545 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tel Aviv, 15 Mar (ITIM) — The claim that someone is responsible for what has happened in Lebanon has prompted hesitancy on the part of some people to use measures that should have been used, despite the fact that the IDF has solutions to unusual acts — Minister of Trade and Commerce Ari'el Sharon said in a lecture today in the Tel Aviv Commercial and Industrial Club.

Mr Sharon said the IDF could give a new answer every day to what is happening in Lebanon and this would require the terrorists to face new situations daily, so that they would have no rest.

He proposed: "We should not look for who is responsible, because the day may come when they are found. Instead, we should now concentrate on searching for answers to the problems that are arising: What will happen when we reach the border line in the north? Will the Shi'ites and terrorists really be busy with their own problems?"

"I think we should now prepare ourselves to think and provide answers," he said. "There is no point in thinking that the answer is to escape or look for who is responsible. I proposed that an inquiry commission be established. It is true that there was one, but it only addressed Sabra and Shatila. I am in favor of an inquiry commission that will investigate the opposition, with its leaders, what they did, how they organized, and how this affected the terrorist leaders who were besieged in Beirut. Everything should be investigated. I also do not have any objections to everyone being investigated, both those who were in the government and those who were in the opposition. Run away? Is that a solution? There is no limit to running away. That does not help."

Sharon said: "We went into Lebanon to attack terrorism. What is now happening in southern Lebanon is nothing compared with what would have happened if we had stopped on the 45-km border. Anyone who thinks that it would have been easier if we had stopped there — with 'Arafat and his thousands of terrorists still in West Beirut — does not know what he is talking about."

Later, Sharon said that UNIFIL should be removed from its place along the line that is the northern border of our security zone. "Some of the UNIFIL personnel have cooperated with the terrorists. They have not fought against terrorism. So their absolute removal from any proximity to Israel's border must be ensured. We must remember that the terrorists worked inside their territory and terrorists are also swarming in their territory now. The most urgent thing is the removal of UNIFIL. I have been demanding this for more than 2 years, but the answer I have always been given is that the United Nations would not agree to that."

In conclusion, he claimed that "we are witnessing an absence of a national consensus regarding the departure from Lebanon and this split began to emerge in the Lebanon war and was artificial and directed [mekhuvan]. It is a pity that we have to hear panic-stricken cries to get out of Lebanon even before suitable answers have been found. It will be very difficult to enter Lebanon next time. There will be mined roads, antitank missiles, and so on. Anyone who thinks that we will be able to enter and deal with the terrorists is saying something that cannot happen. From time to time we will also be faced with the question: Will we once more open a war over a katyusha shelling of Qiryat Shemona? Will we call up the entire nation? Such decisions are not easy," he said.

The club's president, Dr Hayim Teichman, made the opening remarks.

Comments on Security Strip

TA151912 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1820 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that if the IDF withdraws from Lebanon to the international border line without a broad security strip, the government will soon face a difficult decision to take an entire nation into a new war again, as Minister Sharon phrased it. Sharon also said the withdrawal should not be completed until a 30-km security strip is established. Minister Sharon lectured today in the Tel Aviv Commercial Club and, after the lecture, our correspondent Avraham Barzilay spoke with him.

[Begin recording][Sharon] As I see it, the security strip is a 30-km strip stretching to the Al-Awwalit River in the north, Jabal al-Baruk, and the contact line between our forces and the Syrians. There will be none of our forces inside the security zone.

[Barzilay] There will not be any of our forces?

[Sharon] No. There will be restrictions inside that zone, as agreed on in the 17 May 1973 agreement, that is, restrictions on forces. There will not be any terrorists there; there will not be any Syrians there; the stationing of katyushas will be banned, artillery stationing will be banned, and there will not be any ground-to-air missiles. Israel will be able to carry out aerial patrols, naval patrols and, if needed, ground patrols. I hope there will not be any need. There is no connection between the evacuation of Lebanon and the width of the security strip, which must not be less than 30km.

[Barzilay] In fact, what is stopping us from withdrawing to the international border line? If you say that, as you see it, there should not be any Israeli forces in that area, even as part of the security strip?

[Sharon] There is not one minister in the Cabinet, as far as I know, who favors staying in Lebanon, and it is clear to all the Cabinet ministers that the State of Israel has no interest in holding on to any part of Lebanese territory. The evacuation will be implemented, in accordance with the plan submitted by the General Staff Headquarters and it must be implemented. [end recording]

Cabinet Discusses Settlements, Economic Issues

TA171132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The Cabinet decided to set up a ministerial committee chaired by the prime minister to discuss the allocation of a special budget for settlements along the border with Lebanon, in addition to the budget for the various ministries. The amount has not yet been decided. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the Cabinet today heard the requests of the northern settlements in anticipation of the IDF's pullout from Lebanon. The leaders of the settlements asked to be given national priority in all spheres, including economic issues and the question of unemployment.

On another economic issue, the Cabinet today adopted Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi's plan to grant new tax exemptions to export industries and their workers in development towns. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Ya'aqobi's proposal had recently been rejected by the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs but Ya'aqobi appealed this decision at the Cabinet session. According to our correspondent, his appeal was discussed at length and amid sharp exchanges. Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon said the proposal infringed on his affairs. Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i supported Sharon's position and said Sharon is the minister who should be in charge of this issue. Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz sharply attacked the Likud ministers saying their approach was a partisan and unprofessional. The prime minister also came out in support of Minister Ya'aqobi and expressed astonishment at Moda'i's and Sharon's objections. When there is a threat of unemployment, one should cooperate rather than fight over prestige. Ultimately, Ya'aqobi's plan was approved by 10 to 7. Our correspondent notes that all the Likud ministers objected to the proposal except for Minister Sharir who joined the Alignment ministers in their vote.

In today's session the Cabinet did not discuss the acceleration of the withdrawal from Lebanon because the issue was not included in its agenda. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the Cabinet, and this portion of the meeting was declared a session of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

Ya'aqobi Comments on Session

TA171311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The Cabinet is to set up a special ministerial committee to deal with the requests of towns and settlements in the Galilee for economic and other help. Representatives from the north were at today's Cabinet session to present their needs. After the meeting, Economics Affairs Minister Gad Ya'aqobi told our reporter what had been decided.

[Begin recording] [Ya'aqobi] Yes, I think that the government was very positive concerning support for the Galilee and northern villages and towns. The government has established a special ministerial committee headed by the prime minister with some other ministers, including me, to discuss the comprehensive measures that are needed to support and develop those towns and villages including industry, education, communal work and activities, housing, construction, and so on.

[Unidentified correspondent] What kind of a price tag is going to be put on this kind of help?

[Ya'aqobi] There will be a special budget over and above those that are included in the different ministries.

[Correspondent] Has any figure been talked about now?

[Ya'aqobi] No, not yet. [end recording]

Involvement With Christian Rebels in Lebanon Denied

TA171237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem today denied any Israeli involvement in the struggle between the Chirstians in Beirut. The sources also denied the report from Beirut that Christian rebel leaders and Israeli representatives met recently in Juniyah. In reply to a question, Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin said the Israeli Government had nothing to do with events in Beirut.

IDF Dismantling Equipment 'Ahead of Schedule'

TA180533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The IDF has started to dismantle equipment in Jabal al-Baruk in southern Lebanon. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. IDF soldiers have also begun to dismantle camps in the western sector ahead of schedule. Our correspondent notes that the IDF is working very quickly, and that recently soldiers have begun dismantling and loading equipment during the night with the help of spotlights. Officers in the Northern Command's maintenance units said they will comply with any timetable for the withdrawal, even if it means evacuating within 8 to 10 weeks. They emphasized that they would not leave even one screw behind.

Two IDF Soldiers Killed, Five Wounded in S. Lebanon

TA171509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] In southern Lebanon, two IDF soldiers were killed and five others wounded today when light arms fire was directed from an ambush against an IDF patrol in the area of Jibshit, west of Al-Nabatiyah, the IDF spokesman stated. The wounded have been evacuated to hospital. One of the killed soldiers was Sergeant Rafi Kasher, 20, of Tel Aviv. The family of the other killed soldier has been notified.

'Thousands' Attend Peace Now Demonstration

TA161935 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Many thousands demonstrated in Tel Aviv's Municipality Square under the slogan: "Get Out of Lebanon Immediately." The demonstration was organized by the Peace Now Movement and many citizens attended, including IDF senior reserves officers.

Kimche Details Ghali Meeting, Events in Lebanon

TA170832 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT
17 Mar 85

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel and program anchorman Mikha Friedman — live]

[Excerpt] [Frankel] Mr Kimche, during a conference in Geneva you met with Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and, according to reports, spent 2 hours discussing President Mubarak's initiative. Did you bring back some sort of message from the Egyptian ministers for the prime minister or the foreign minister?

[Kimche] We indeed held a long, very friendly, and informal talk reviewing relations between Israel and Egypt. We tried to find ways to breathe some degree of warmth into these cool relations. This was the main aim of the talks. We talked about various ways to improve bilateral ties, which I hope will in fact be implemented in the near future.

[Frankel] Mr Kimche, are there any avowed differences between the Egyptians and the Jordanians regarding the composition of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation? Just this morning we heard King Husayn say in an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES* that PLO members must be represented in this delegation. Did you hear any differently from Butrus Ghali?

[Kimche] No, I did not hear anything different. I only heard his own assessments. This problem is primarily an Arab one. Members of the Arab camp are the ones who have to bring about order within their own camp. It is preferable that we wait and see what they do. There is no place at this point for us to intervene in this matter.

[Frankel] Let us conclude with an issue that is currently on the agenda. We hear reports about the Syrian Army's intention to enter the Christian enclave in Lebanon. You are in charge of Lebanese matters. Can we, after all that has happened during the past 3 years, offer the Christians some form of help in their enclave in Lebanon?

[Kimche] Let us first clarify that I am not in charge of this matter. Second, as in the previous subject, this is none of our business. We should follow events, examine to what extent the events may affect Israel's security, and do no more.

[Frankel] There were times when Israel did have an interest in offering help to Christians in need. Has something changed?

[Kimche] Well, the situation in Lebanon has changed since then.

Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Discusses Tabah Issue

TA151920 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Basyuni, said that Egypt will continue to pressure the United States to agree to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is because the Reagan administration's refusal to agree to such a meeting would end the Egyptian peace initiative. Mr Basyuni also said that President Mubarak might agree to a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres if the latter agrees to transfer the Tabah dispute to arbitration.

'Persuasive Arguments' for Tabah Ownership Claimed

TA170912 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Israel has persuasive arguments to justify its ownership over Tabah. These arguments will be presented in due course, when the Israeli and Egyptian Governments agree to submit the issue to arbitration. This was stated by officials at the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Ministry's deputy legal adviser, Alan Baker, told *MA'ARIV* this was the conclusion of legal experts who have been collecting evidence to corroborate Israel's claim for a long time. "We have a good case," Baker said. "There is an element of risk for both sides in any process of arbitration. However, bearing in mind that we will have to tackle a party that has also prepared numerous pieces of evidence, our case is a good one," the deputy legal adviser noted.

Contrary to the Egyptian Government, which published arguments and evidence allegedly justifying its claim to ownership over Tabah, Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem have refrained from divulging any details about the documents and evidence in their possession which might help the Egyptians in anticipation of a possible legal discussion.

Editorial Analyzes Mubarak's U.S. Visit

TA161409 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 85 p 16

[Editorial: "Uncle Sam Plays It Cool"]

[Text] After nearly a week in Washington, Egypt's president, Husni Mubarak, is returning to Cairo with no concrete changes in the U.S. position.

Like Israel, he has not yet succeeded in obtaining approval for the supplementary economic aid Egypt has requested — some $900 million over and above the $2.3 billion already pledged. And he has been unable to induce Mr Reagan to invite a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for a "preliminary" peace dialogue.

U.S. officials are reported to be somewhat apprehensive that their administration may have offended an important Arab friend, and, therefore, a small part of Mr Mubarak's aid requested may soon be granted.

If Mr Mubarak launched his preace proposals last month in the hope that they would help smooth the way for his aid requests, then he has reason to feel disappointed. But if, as might as well be assumed, he initiated them also in the genuine belief that time for peace was running out, American caution must have disappointed him as well. In an appearance before the National Press Club following his meeting with Mr Reagan, Mr Mubarak gave vent to some bitterness.

He thought the U.S. was inviting trouble by declining to plunge into the peace process, and by taking a defeatist do-nothing attitude to the Middle East conflict. He was not suggesting that the U.S. negotiate in Israel's name, or behind its back, only that it should make contact with the Palestinians. No one could tell which of the Palestinians was a PLO member, and which was not. Yet the dialogue in Washington could prepare the ground for further diplomatic steps. As for Palestinian self-determination, it posed no threat to Israel.

The same arguments must have been made by Mr Mubarak to Mr Reagan, and it is easy to see why they met with a lukewarm reception. The Egyptian president said nothing to rebut the assumption that his purpose was to cajole the U.S. into serving as a mediator between Israel and a legitimized PLO, without that organization shedding its covenant. This was, and remains, unacceptable to the Americans, as it is to Israel.

Mr Reagan made his own position clear enough, both in what he said and avoided saying, right after the meeting. He praised his guest for his "positive contribution" to peace, but reiterated his view that there was no substitute for direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Such negotiations would be based on Resolution 242, which provides both for the restoration of Arab land and for secure and recognized borders for Israel.

The U.S. President reaffirmed his commitment to his own September 1, 1982, initiative, and his support for the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians. But he did not indicate that the right to self-determination was among them. He was silent on the issue of PLO participation in peace talks, and the silence spoke volumes.

The message to Mr Mubarak was unmistakable. If his proposals rest unalterably on the award of a central, acknowledged role in the peace process to the PLO, then they represent a virtual non-starter. In its present form, at least, the PLO is not a fit partner to negotiations about peace. The U.S. does not endorse any Israeli claim to all the territories occupied in June 1967. But neither does it recognize any PLO right to establish an independent state in the Palestinian areas.

Disappointing as these American views may be to the Egyptian president, they should serve as a trigger for fresh ideas in Cairo.

Shamir Sees No 'Special Importance' to Murphy Visit

TA170539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the issue of sending a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the United States in line with the Egyptian initiative is no longer on the agenda. This is the reason the foreign minister attaches no special importance to Richard Murphy's upcoming visit to the Middle East. The foreign minister was speaking to our correspondent Razi Barqay in Washington.

'Lack of Enthusiasm' Seen for Murphy's Visit

TA170952 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
17 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Jerusalem is not thrilled about the upcoming arrival in the region of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy. The Prime Minister's Office is aware of plans to send Murphy but does not know the exact date of his arrival.

There are various reasons for the lack of enthusiasm over Murphy's arrival in Jerusalem and the region. First of all, the U.S. Administration did not attach any importance to President Mubarak's initiative and, consequently, it is doubtful that an administration official who may not believe in the chances of such an initiative will be able to put it into high gear.

Second, Murphy's missions to Lebanon did not produce any results at the time. Officials in Jerusalem believe that the administration could guarantee the mission's success if it sent a higher official, such as Secretary of State George Shultz, but they doubt that this can be done by an official of Murphy's level.

Third, since there is a peace treaty and a dialogue between Israel and Egypt and there are diplomatic relations and a dialogue between Egypt and Jordan, the U.S. mediation effort would seem to be on a low level and a return to indirect contacts between the parties, rather than enabling a direct dialogue between Israel and Egypt and between Egypt and Jordan.

Officials in Jerusalem expressed astonishment over a report originating in Washington that Richard Murphy intends to check whether the national unity government can handle the peace process in addition to dealing with the withdrawal from Lebanon and the economic question. The officials expressed the hope that this is not really how Washington feels.

As is known, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes the government has no time to deal with political initiatives because of other business, and a memorandum in this spirit was sent at the time to Israeli Embassies throughout the world by Moshe Yegar, the Foreign Ministry's Information Division director. However, this is not the view of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who believes the government can and must find time to deal with political initiatives. The prime minister also thinks the current government has rather vast grounds for action until such time that the political differences between the Labor Party and the Likud lead to its downfall.

Despite doubts that Murphy's mission may lead to real progress, political sources last night noted that if Murphy hears from Saudi Arabia, and particularly from Jordan, that they are prepared to support Mubarak's initiative, his mission may prove successful.

Agreement on Free Trade Zone With U.S. Reached

TA170610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Israel and the United States have agreed on the customs procedures connected to implementing the free trade zone. The agreement was reached during discussions held in Israel last week with a U.S. delegation headed by the deputy commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service. The first deputy director of the Israeli Customs and Value Added Tax Department, David Shim'oni, told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that the groundwork for the agreement has in fact already been prepared. A joint campaign against smuggling is one of the issues agreed upon during the talks.

Peres Stresses Jerusalem Not To Be Divided Again

TA171832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The sixth conference of the Jerusalem Committee, an international body that gives advice on various aspects pertaining to the city, opened in Jerusalem this afternoon. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres again stressed at the opening session that Jerusalem will not be divided again.

[Begin Peres recording in English] Jerusalem shall not be divided amongst states, and shall not be surrendered to international control. It is Israel's capital; it is to remain united. [end recording]

ALGERIA

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers

LD181300 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Excerpt] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived this morning in Algiers with a message from President of Iran 'Ali Khamene'i to President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party.

Algiers Notes Arrival of Foreign Dignitaries

LD152351 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] We note three arrivals in Algiers today: the Malian interior minister who brought a message from President Traore for President Bendjedid; the Argentinian secretary of state for energy, at the head of a large delegation — Mr Storani — who will have talks with his counterpart, Mr Belkacem Nabi; and a Jordanian military delegation led by General Shurdum, commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force.

LIBYA

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli 16 Mar

LD161917 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Mar (JANA) — Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA Dr Velayati hailed the relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He pointed out that his visit falls within the framework of promoting and developing these relations and consultations over a number of issues of mutual interest.

Received by Jallud

LD171936 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud today received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and delegation accompanying him.

Delivers Khomeyni Message

LD180215 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0015 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution last night received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, who delivered a written message from Imam Khomeyni. The message contained Iran's response to the call the brother leader made to both Imam Khomeyni and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asking them to halt the shelling and attacks upon towns and civilian targets. Iran has stated it will respond to the brother leader's call on the condition that Iraq ceases its attacks upon towns and civilian targets.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Congratulations to Gorbachev

LD162004 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Mar (JANA) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, has sent a cable of congratulations to Mikhail Gorbachev, on the occasion of his assuming the post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, successor to the late Konstantin Chernenko.

Al-Qadhdhafi Says U.S. Humiliates Arab Rulers

LD171853 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to unnamed Arab kings and presidents on 17 March]

[Text] We are angry at seeing the Arab rulers rush to humiliation and disgrace following the American rulers' insistence on humiliating them and lowering their status. After such a long period of dealing with America, we should know by now that we are wasting our time.

America is the country which monopolized our petroleum in exchange for cheap prices from which we did not benefit until after the revolution in Libya. Our money benefited all the American banks controlled by the Zionists. The Zionist-American capitalist institutions benefited from the money of the naive Arabs all those years. The Arab world became on open market for useless American industries. As a reward America armed the Israeli enemy with all the means of comprehensive destruction for the Arab world, including nuclear missiles. America rewarded the Arabs with physical annihilation and psychological humiliation, humiliation such as some Arab rulers were exposed to during their last blessed visit to America.

One such example of humiliation -- and not the only one -- occurred when the Egyptian president was ignored for 3 complete days while the American President enjoyed his leisure with three of his dogs in [name indistinct]. The Egyptian president was received on arrival only by an under secretary at the State Department; this is to say nothing of the intentional insults in the hotel and on his departure.

As for his meeting with the American President, one should recall what the Egyptian president himself said about it. He returned according to the Arabic proverb "with Hunayn slippers" [with less than before]. This is the president of the Arab country which gave most to America. It gave itself on a golden platter to America without any conditions. Now you see how the Americans treat it.

Your Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies, I would like to stress firmly my absolute rejection of any attitude which begs solutions from America. My belief, which is tested by time, is that the solution will be found only on Palestinian Arab land, and by our own hands and not by anyone else's. It will be found only from the angle of lying flat in the sighting position [to fire a weapon]. You have seen how America insists, despite all this, that meeting with Palestinians is forbidden without any argument whatsoever.

Is there not among you a reasonable man who wonders what the crime of the Palestinians is that causes America to isolate them to this despicable extent? Is their crime that they were evicted from their homeland and that they are even chased outside their land and that they are refugees dispersed and treated unjustly? Does not this clear injustice make us prove to the world, even if only for once in our current era, that we have our dignity and pride, and say to America, in exchange for all this, we cut you off absolutely, and we ban you politically and economically as you ban the Palestinians?

However, as a responsible revolutionary Arab I inform you, ruler by ruler, that unless an end is put to ridiculing this nation by its rulers, then I will shoulder my pan-Arab responsibility and do whatever is necessary to deter any of us who is careless about our great nation and who causes its dignity to be thrown in the American mud. I, and all Arab citizens like me, do not care about the slaps and insults which are directed to the rulers, because anyone who goes to the American house should be prepared for insults.

[Signed] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

'Pan-Arab Command' To Meet in Tripoli 28 Mar

LD171443 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA) — JANA has learned that a meeting of the Pan-Arab Command for the Leading of the Revolutionary Forces in the Arab Homeland will be held in Tripoli on 28 March. It has been learned that the invitation has been extended to all the revolutionary detachments which have declared their intention to join the Pan-Arab Command for the Leading of the Revolutionary Forces in the Arab Homeland to attend this meeting.

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Returns From Moscow 13 Mar

LD151353 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] El Aaiun, March 15 (MAP) — Moroccan premier returned to El Aaiun on Wednesday night coming from Moscow where he had represented King Hassan II of Morocco at the funeral of the late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. Mr Lamrani presented the sovereign's condolences to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, whom he congratulated for his election at the head of the Soviet Communist Party.

During his stay in Moscow, Mr Lamrani conferred with several heads of delegations such as Indian premier Rajiv Ghandi, with whom he evoked Moroccan-Indian relations and questions of common interest. The Moroccan premier was accompanied by Mr Mohand Laensar, minister of postal services and telecommunications.

SUDAN

Numayri Appoints New Army Commander, Others

JN161453 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Mar (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has issued a number of republican decrees appointing the following:

1. 'Awad al-Jid Muhammad Ahmad as attorney general;
2. General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab as defense minister and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces;
3. Hasan Bashir as minister of aviation and tourism;
4. 'Abd al-Qadir Abu Qurun as minister of legal affairs at the Presidency;
5. Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saninah as minister of state for tourism, hotels, and hunting guards at the Ministry of Aviation and Tourism.

The president also issued a decree promoting Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah to the rank of general and appointing him deputy commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces and chief of operations.

His excellency also issued a republican decree appointing Dr Yusuf Fadl Hasan as president of Khartoum University and another decree appointing Dr al-Fatih Qaribuallah as president of Omdurman Islamic University.

The president also issued a republican decree appointing Abu al-Qasim Hashim as the People's Assembly rapporteur. Another republican decree appointed Yasin Mahmud Ahmad secretary of elections and referendums at the Presidency with the rank of minister of state.

President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri had earlier issued a republican decree establishing the Ministry of Aviation and Tourism, which includes the Civil Aviation Authority, the Tourism and Hotels General Authority, the Hunting Guard Force, and the Meteorological Department.

The ministry will specialize in drawing up air transport policies, developing its methods and increasing its efficiency, assuming responsibility for airport management and maintenance, and supervising the work of the Sudan Air Transport Company.

Vice President Al-Tayyib Leaves for United States

JN161500 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Mar (SUNA) — First Vice President (Retired) Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib left for the United States today. His visit comes within the framework of continuous consultations between the two friendly countries and will complete the discussions U.S. Vice President George Bush held during his visit to Sudan the first week of March.

Vice President Lague Confers With Soviet Ambassador

JN171506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — Vice President Joseph Lague has explained to the Soviet ambassador the problems Sudan is experiencing as a result of drought, desertification, and the influx of large numbers of refugees. He also discussed the possibility of Soviet aid to Sudan in its capacity as a superpower.

Lague said that he asked the Soviet ambassador to convey his thanks to the Soviet Government for his warm reception and his delegation during their recent visit to the Soviet Union to participate in Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's funeral.

Official Spokesman Denies Loss of Mongalla

JN171436 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — In a press statement here today, the official spokesman for the People's Armed Forces denied a British Broadcasting Corporation report that cited outlaw sources in southern Sudan as saying that the city of Mongalla in the Upper Nile Region had fallen to the outlaws.

The official spokesman pointed out that the People's Armed Forces had bravely repulsed an attack that a group of the outlaws launched on a People's Armed Forces camp in Mongalla. The outlaws sustained massive losses in lives and equipment. He added that the outlaws fled, leaving behind large quantities of arms and ammunition. The People's Armed Forces are in full control of the situation.

SPLA Radio: 'Remnants' Retreating From Mongalla

EA151442 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] According to Radio SPLA correspondents accompanying SPLA forces in Equatoria, heavy fighting is continuing between the SPLA forces of Thunder Battalion and government troops 10 miles south of Mongalla. The remnants of the government forces who withdrew from Mongalla to (Pawoi) on March 13th, 1985 have now been pushed 5 miles southwards and are constantly retreating towards Juba.

It is to be recalled that the SPLA Thunder Battalion under the command of Major Benjamin Makor Lwal attacked and captured Mongalla enemy garrison in Equatoria administrative area on March 13th 1985.

The SPLA forces are still occupying Mongalla and have completed burning and demolishing strategic buildings and installations including the nonoperational Mongalla textile factory. The rescue and release of the many civilian prisoners held by the SPLA forces in Mongalla has also been completed. Radio SPLA will keep listeners informed about the details of the Mongalla operation.

Meanwhile the commander in chief of the SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior has sent a message of congratulations to Major Arok Thuon Arok, member of the SPLA Military Committee and commander of the SPLA forces in southern Upper Nile and Equatoria administrative areas, for what he described as this great victory achieved by our forces over Numayri's army at Mongalla.

Mongalla Battle Detailed

EA171547 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Details have reached us about the battle between the SPLA forces and the enemy forces at the Mongalla camp of the regime forces. The enemy lost 79 at the Mongalla camp; the bodies of these enemy soldiers have been buried while an unknown number of wounded enemy soldiers fled towards Juba. Thirteen military and commercial trucks used by the regime's forces were destroyed. Thirteen policemen who were in Mongalla were captured while 30 prisoners were released. As we have already reported, the strategic installations, including the Mongalla textile factory, were destroyed.

SPLA units are, as of this moment, still in full control of the region and have been since its occupation. There is no trace of the enemy force in Mongalla town or the surrounding areas.

The SPLA lost 8 brave fighters, while 17 others were wounded.

In another development, the commander of the SPLA forces in the south Upper Nile administrative area and the Equatoria area has welcomed the proposal of the deputy governor of the so-called Equatoria Region, Francis Wajo, to correspondents from the BBC and other organizations to visit the area to inspect the situation.

We also wish to remind listeners that we shall broadcast tomorrow details and names of the enemy soldiers who died as a result of the downing of the Buffalo aircraft in Akobo town on the 13th of this month.

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers Notes Saharan Condemnation of Morocco

LD152004 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] A statement by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture released today affirmed that it will be impossible to maintain peace and stability in the region of northwest Africa as long as the Moroccan regime continues to violate SDAR borders and avoids the path of peace specified by the United Nations and the OAU.

The statement adds that the decline in the diplomatic corps accredited to Morocco taking part in the Moroccan king's visit to the city of El Aaiun refutes and exposes all of the Moroccan regime's intentions toward the SDAR. This visit by the Moroccan king proves once again the nonexistance of any Moroccan political will at a time when the international community is doubling its appeals directed toward the two parties to the conflict, Morroco and the Polisario Front, to hold dirct negotiations to implement a peace plan to resolve the Western Saharan issue.

The Saharan statement notes, on the other hand, that some newspapers have tried to exploit this occasion in an attempt to help the Moroccan king gain time and simultanuously mislead Moroccan and international public opinion and divert it from the tragic situation being faced by Morocco which results from the continuation of the Rabat regime's aggressive war against the Saharan people.

SDAR Official Condemns Hassan Position on Referendum

LD161623 Algiers APS in English 1538 GMT 16 Mar 85

Algiers, 16-3-85 (APS) — "If King Hassan II accepts to put an end to the Western Sahara occupation, the referendum can take place tomorrow", Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, Politburo member, in charge of external relations of the Polisario Front declared to the national daily *EL MOUDJAHID*. "In fact, what Morocco's king wants is a masquerade organized by himself, and for himself [words indistinct] under the occupation of his army", Ould Salek indicated in his declaration released today.

"King Hassan II has not changed of a question his position regarding the question of the conflict opposing SDAR to his country", the Polisario Front external relations official carried on, adding that the Moroccan king "showed a total intransigence during his last press conference". On the contrary, "what is to be stressed", he noted, is that King Hassan II clearly recognized that the Western Sahara question is a question of decolonization and that Morocco illegally occupies a part of this country since he declared that the solution would be "either the total independence of Western Sahara, or the joining to Morrocco".

"Because if our country belonged to Morocco according to Ould Salek, King Hassan II would have never admitted the principle of independence. Coming back to the question of referendum, the Saharan official recalled that it is to be held in conformity with OAU and UN resolutions "without any Moroccan military or administrative constraints, in the presence of a peace keeping international force and neutral international administration which will be in charge of supervising this referendum of [words indinstinct]determination". Speaking about the "statute of internal autonomy", proposed by the Moroccans and the Spanish to Saharans during their different meetings, Ould Salek rejected this idea by stating: "We can also add that there will be no confederation, no federation, no SDAR severed of a part of its territory".

ETHIOPIA

Aid Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

EA161843 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] An agreement to provide construction equipment, clothes, and blankets was signed today between revolutionary Ethiopia and the USSR in accord with another agreement reached last December. The goods included in the agreement signed at the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Office are to arrive here in 1985. This agreement was signed for Ethiopia by Comrade Berhanu Beresa, deputy commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, and for the Soviet Union by Comrade Fedorov, economic adviser at the USSR Embassy in Ethiopia.

Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit to France

For Paris reportage on the visit to France by Foreign Affairs Minister Goshu Wolde, see the France section of the 18 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SALF, EPLF Leaders Discuss Links, Cooperation

EA171438 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 0930 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Mr Mohamed Haji Hassan Gababa, the secretary general of the Somali Abo Liberation Front [SALF], has received in his office EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] Secretary General Mr Ramadan Muhammad [name indistinct] and his delegation.

The two fronts discussed ways of strengthening links and cooperation to expedite the implementation of the decolonization program and the solution of the prevailing problem in the Horn of Africa. The SALF and EPLF officials also discussed ways of cooperating in seizing their land from the black colonialist Abyssinian regime.

The two fronts resolved to pool their moral and material resources against their common enemy, the Abyssinian colonizers.

TPLF Claims 360 Government Soldiers Killed in Tigray

EA161430 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 0930 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] A statement issued by the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] on (?13) March says three battalions of the Abyssinian black colonialists with 70 tanks (?supported by Russian personnel) launched a massive attack on the Tigray area. In the fighting, which lasted for 6 days, [words indistinct] TPLF fighters died and the Abyssinians lost 360 soldiers and many others were wounded. In the fighting, the Abyssinian soldiers [words indistinct] the TPLF fighters captured a large quantity of arms from the Abyssinian forces, on which very heavy losses were inflicted.

Briefs

Incoming, Outgoing Envoys— Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, received one newly appointed ambassador and bade farewell to three other outgoing ambassadors. In a ceremony held at the National Palace this afternoon, Major General Hananiya, the Nigerian ambassador, presented his letter of appointment to our comrade revolutionary leader, while the outgoing ambassadors were Comrade Konstantin Fomichenko, Soviet ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia; Libor Pecl, Czechoslovak ambassador; and Suketaro Enomoto, Japanese ambassador to Ethiopia. [Excerpt] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 85 EA*]

SOMALIA

SRSP Political Committee Orders Officials' Retirement

EA151935 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] At a meeting held on 13 March, the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the SRSP discussed in depth matters relating to the restructuring of the administration of national institutions, the streamlining of administrative methods, and ensuring the proper management of national affairs. The Political Committee held a thorough discussion and study of these matters in the interests of the proper management of national affairs and serving the overall interest of the Somali people, and resolved to retire 45 workers named below from national service. Those who are willing will be channeled to agricultural and fisheries production as well as being given substantial assistance.

The retired workers are:

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources:
1. Hassan Mahmud (Jibril), director general of seashore development project;
2. Ahmed Said Abdi, director of administration of seashore development;
3. Hussein Abdi Mohamed, director of the Construction Department of the ministry.

Ministry of Information and National Guidance:
1. Ali (Adow) Mahmud, personnel director of the National Printing Agency;
2. Mohamed Abdi (Guled), financial manager of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance.

President's Office:
1. Ibrahim Nahmud Hassan, manager of the spare parts section of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Presidency;
2. (Maryan Haji Elmi), manager of banking department of the attorney general's office.

Ministry of Tourism:
1. Hassan Abdi Aban, manager of Hotels Department;
2. Hussein Isa Abdan, personnel manager of the Ministry of Tourism.

Ministry of Labor and Sports:
1. Mohamed (Diblaweh Malin), manager of [word indistinct].

Ministry of Culture and Higher Education:
1. Amhed (Bixi Warfa), manager of the Academy of Education and Culture;
2. Abdullahi Isa Yusuf, deputy rector of the National University;
3. (Abshir) Mahmud Ali, manager of the Technical Department.

Ministry of Agriculture:
1. Isa Abdullahi (Omar), commercial director of the Agricultural Development Corporation [ADC];
2. Mohamed Hassan (Adeh Firin), personnel manager of the ADC;
3. (Fatah Bulxan) Mohamed, financial director of the ADC.

Ministry of Finance:
1. Rahman Sheikh Mohamed, director of the secretariat of the Insurance Department;
2. Sheikh Omar Abdulle, director of the Building Insurance Department;
3. Hussein Mohamed Omar, director of the Insurance Department.

Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport:
1. Abdullahi Nasir Mohamed, ports manager of the ministry;
2. Mohamed Mahmud Said, financial manager of the ministry;
3. Abokar Haji Hussein, manager of the Marine Department;
4. Yusuf Ali (Bideh), shipping manager in Kismayu;
5. (Abdurrazzaq) Said Musa, director of general secretariat of the SDR Shipping Agency;
6. (Catiq Abukar) Mohamed, SDR shipping director;
7. Amhed Jama Adan, director of planning of the shipping agency;
8. (Omar Dualeh Egal), personnel director of the shipping agency;
9. Mohamed Mahmud (Salih), director of Kismayu port;
10. (Omar) Ali Hassan, manager of general finance of the SDR Ports Authority.

Ministry of Livestock Development:
1. Hussein Hassan (Adeh), director of Tsetse fly eradication program;
2. Mahmud Farrah (Direyeh), director of research of the Tsetse fly project;
3. (Abshir Goni) Abdi, personnel manager of the ministry;
4. Abdi (Wahid) Abdullahi (Salih), transport director of the National Grazing Agency;
5. (Abshir Uthman) Hassan, director of grazing of the National Grazing Agency.

Ministry of Health:
1. Hassan (Alim), director general of safety of workers.

Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs:
1. Yusuf (Gedi), a chairman of the Court of Appeal;
2. Omar Yusuf Farrah, a chairman of the Court of Appeal;
3. (Uthman) Sheikh Ali Abokar, a chairman of the Court of Appeal;
4. Hassan Haji (Fiqi), permanent secretary of the ministry;
5. Sheikh Mohamed Ali (Hared), a chairman of the Court of Appeal.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry:
1. Mohamed (Uthman Awadh), director general of the National Petroleum Company;
2. (Dahir) Haji (Uthman), director general of a consumer goods factory;
3. (Uthman Ali Waheliyeh), director of internal trade.

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications:
1. Umar Abdi (Elmi), manager of the Revenue Department;
2. Umar Mohamed (Qaheliyeh), manager of the Telephone Department.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives New PRC, Italian Ambassadors

AB151730 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Summary] President Paul Biya this morning received the letters of credence from Their Excellencies Shi Nailiang and (Francesco Labrusso), ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC and the Italian Republic to Cameroon.

CHAD

Habre Continues First Visit to Southern Region

AB150925 Paris AFP in French 1643 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Moundou, Western Logone, 14 Mar (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre arrived today in Moundou in the Western Logone Prefecture on the third leg of his tour of southern Chad.

As in Sarh (Moyen Chari) and Doba (Eastern Logone), the Chadian head of state made a statement in which he called for national reconciliation and advocated the policy of extending hands to the "Codos Brothers," the rebel guerrilla groups in the south.

For the first time, he stressed the role of the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT), whose activities are sometimes contested in the south of the country. President Habre lauded the FANT's quality of men, whom he described as "capable of defending the Chadian people and the country's territorial integrity."

He will meet the Western Logone traditional chiefs tomorrow. According to the official schedule, he will leave Moundou on Sunday for yet another unspecified destination.

Tuesday in Doba (Eastern Logone), President Hissein Habre said that he was very satisfied with the first part of his tour of southern Chad which took him to Sarh (Moyen Orient). It was maintained within the head of state's entourage that his discussions with the traditional chiefs in Moyen Orient and the administrative authorities were "very fruitful."

Also the French director of an enterprise in Sarh, who was received in audience by Mr Habre together with a delegation of expatriates, confirmed to AFP that "dialogue was established" between the central power in Ndjamena and the people of the south.

To show his desire for dialogue, the Chadian president, who was visiting the south for the first time, made the decision — described as "political" by one of his advisers, Mahamat Nouri — to reduce the extremely tight security that had accompanied his arrival in Sarh. He paid a long visit to the area by car surrounded by a minimum number of servicemen and a very hospitable crowd. This measure has particular significance since it concerns the most heated issue in the relations between the government of President Hissein Habre and the people of the south: the difficult coexistence with the soldiers of the FANT.

Both Chadian and Western sources have expressed regret that in Sarh and in the region the FANT, particularly the Goranes elements, behave like a veritable "occupation army" and at times "sow terror."

It is asserted in the president's entourage that this problem is known but that it is difficult to control soldiers who, not long ago, were guerrillas not subject to discipline.

ZAIRE

President Mobutu To Visit Egypt 24-27 March

AB150915 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0830 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Mar (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic, will pay an official visit to Egypt 24-27 March 1985 at the invitation of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. This news was announced by the Zaire television network, Tele-Zaire, in its Thursday evening newscast.

Briefs

New Envoy From Greece— Kinshasa, 14 Mar (AZAP) — Ioannis Yennimatas, the new Greek ambassador to Zaire, arrived in Kinshasa yesterday. The new Greek diplomat, who will present copies of his letters of credence today at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, came from Brussels, where he was ambassador. He replaces Andonios Korandis. [Text] [*Kinshasa AZAP in French 0750 GMT 14 Mar 85 AB*]

BURKINA

Sankara Receives Algerian Foreign Minister

AB170851 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Yesterday evening, the comrade chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and president of the Republic granted an audience to Mr Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs. At the end of the 3-hour audience, the Algerian minister told the press that he brought a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to Comrade Thomas Sankara. This audience was also an opportunity to discuss the field of cooperation between Algiers and Ouagadougou and the major current problems afflicting the African Continent.

On the first point, Mr Taleb Ibrahimi said he was satisfied with relations between our two countries, which will be further strengthened with the meeting of the joint commission for cooperation which will be held very soon in Ouagadougou.

Concerning the hotbeds in Africa, the Algerian position, just like ours, is clear. This observation also applies to the struggle of oppressed people for their liberation and dignity. There is nothing astonishing then that the two sides restated their support for the various liberation struggles in Western Sahara and Namibia.

GHANA

Burkinabe Troops Arrive for Military Exercise

AB151402 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] One hundred and ten soldiers arrived in Tema on 13 March to participate in the military exercise between Ghana and Burkina Faso. The soldiers will be based at the Michel Camp barracks. According to our reporter, Omar Cissoko, the trip was a good one and the soldiers arrived in good spirits despite the 1,030 km they had to travel.

A war council is scheduled to take place today between Ghanaian and Burkinabe military authorities while the military exercise itself will begin next Sunday. The enemy is located on an island 150 km northeast of Accra.

Outgoing Envoys Call on PNDC Chairman

AB150945 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Two outgoing ambassadors today called on the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant John Jerry Rawlings, at the castle, Osu, to formally take leave of him. They are the Spanish ambassador Jose Maria Sierra y Nava, and the Australian High Commissioner Geoffrey Allen.

The Australian high commissioner told the PNDC chairman that his country is closing down its embassy in Accra temporarily for economic reasons. He however said his government would continue to maintain good relations with Ghana through her country's high commissioner in Nigeria. He added that economic assistance to Ghana would also continue.

The PNDC coordinating secretary, P.V. Obeng, who spoke on behalf of Flight Lt Rawlings, said that it is unfortunate that Australia is closing down her high commission considering the economic assistance it has been offering Ghana over the years. Mr Obeng mentioned, for example, the 2,500 metric tons of wheat she gave Ghana 1 and 1/2 years ago and a number of scholarships offered to Ghanaians to study in Australia. He added that Australia has the potential to help Ghana, and the only hope is that its economic situation improves quickly so that she reopens the high commission.

GUINEA

Soviet Trade Union Delegation Arrives in Conakry

AB142255 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU] arrived in our capital this afternoon aboard the regular Aeroflot flight from Moscow. The Soviet trade union delegation, led by Comrade Aleksandr Popov, member of the AUCCTU, was met by several members of the national trade union led by Confederal Bureau members. At the Conakry-Gbessia Airport, the head of the Soviet trade union delegation said that their visit falls within the framework of strengthening the excellent ties of solidarity and cooperation existing between the AUCCTU and the Guinean trade union. During its week's stay in our country, the Soviet trade union delegation will visit workers in Forecariah and Kindia and several units of production [words indistinct].

GUINEA-BISSAU

Foreign Minister Semedo Visits Portugal

For Lisbon reportage on the visit to Portugal by Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Semedo, including his meetings with Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister Jaime Gama, see the Portugal section of the 15 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

LIBERIA

Doe Announces Appointments to Government Posts

AB180950 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Several changes have been effected in the government by the head of state, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. According to an Executive Mansion release issued yesterday, Sunday, Liberia Broadcasting System [LBS] director general, Dr

Peter Niagow, has been appointed director general of the cabinet, while Mr Trohoe Kparghai, chairman of the National Investment Commission, becomes special assistant to the head of state, while the former director general of the cabinet, Mr Wilson (Kankawolo), is slated for another position. [Words indistinct], Mr E. (Hardy Smight), has been named by Dr Doe as his national security adviser.

The deputy managing director of the Liberian Petroleum Refining Corporation, Mr Philip Davis, succeeds Kparghai as chairman of the National Investment Commission, while Mr (G. Moses K. Washington) takes over the management of LBS until a new director general is appointed.

The head of state has also appointed Mr John Bestman as director of the budget replacing Mr (Soni Sherman), who is to undertake a new assignment shortly. Mr Bestman has been succeeded as deputy minister of finance for debt servicing by Mr (Ling Secheylles), deputy finance minister for administration. Mr (Eddie Molley) has been appointed deputy minister of finance for revenues while Mr Peter Bemah becomes deputy minister of finance for administration. Mr Bemah had been deputy minister for revenues while Mr (Molley) was commissioner of customs. Mr (Camus Gallon), becomes the main commissioner of customs.

Money Not Available To Complete Voter Registration

AB170855 Paris AFP in English 0723 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Monrovia, March 17 (AFP) — The Special Electoral Commission (Secom) set up to organize elections to return Liberia to civilian rule has no money to complete voter registration or pay some 2,300 registrars involved in it, according to Secom Chairman Emmett Harmon. He told the government-owned newspaper *NEW LIBERIAN* that the commission owed the registrars about 1.2 million dollars but had only been able to pay them half that amount. He said the commission needed about 5,000 registrars.

Briefs

Outgoing Envoy From Morocco— The outgoing Moroccan ambassador to Liberia, Mr Khalil Hajoui, has been admitted into the Humane Order of African Redemption with the rank of Knight of the Great Sash. Mr Hajoui was honored for his active role in promoting relations between Morocco and Liberia. Acting Foreign Minister Christopher Minikon performed the ceremony on behalf of head of state CIC [Commander in Chief] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, who lauded the Moroccan envoy for the exemplary manner in which he reflected the policy of his government in Liberia during the last 2 years. [Excerpt] [*Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 15 Mar 85 AB*]

MALI

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit

AB151450 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Algerian minister of foreign affairs arrived in Bamako this morning for a 3-day official visit to Mali. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi was welcomed by Alioune Blondin Beye, who was accompanied by his close aides as well as by African diplomats and those of the Arab League accredited to Bamako. The diplomats were led by their dean, Sass Ould Guig, the Mauritanian ambassador to Mali. This official visit will enable Malian and Algerian officials to hold talks on all issues of common interests. This is what Dr Taleb told our reporter Lamine Coulibaly.

[Begin Ibrahimi recording] I think that this visit will be an opportunity for me to examine first of all the problems of bilateral cooperation. Usually Algerians and Malians express satisfaction with the development of their cooperation and with the results of this cooperation, but despite all this, we will take stock of what has been done since the previous meeting of the joint commission, which took place in Algiers in June 1984. We will particularly take the opportunity to prepare the next meeting, that is the 6th session of the joint commission, which will take place in Bamako. I will also discuss with Malian officials the situation prevailing in Africa and the life of continental organization, the OAU. I would like to take this opportunity — since the Malian media are here — to say that I am bearer of a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to the president of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Moussa Traore. It is a message of friendship and fraternity from the Algerian people to the Malian people. [end recording]

Meets With Traore

AB160913 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] This morning the head of state has received in an audience Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs. During the audience, their discussions centered on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and the brotherly and friendly relations which have always existed between the two countries because of the geographical and historical links between them. They also reviewed international issues and discussed the forthcoming OAU summit on economic problems. Present at the audience were Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Mohamed Alousseini Toure, secretary general at the Presidency, Tidjiani Guissey, diplomatic adviser. Dr Taleb Ibrahimi talked about his audience to Lamine Coulibaly, our reporter.

[Begin Ibrahimi recording] This visit to Mali is an opportunity for me to hold talks with the Malian authorities and the Malian head of state, to whom I delivered a message from President Chadli. I discussed bilateral cooperation and current international political issues with them.

On the bilateral issue, we expressed our mutual satisfaction over this cooperation through documents I reviewed with the ministers I met this morning in order to find suitable solutions to some problems to be discussed during the forthcoming 6th session of the joint commission scheduled to take place in Bamako some time this year, probably at the end of the year. When we say cooperation, we do not only talk about technical cooperation. Cooperation also means discussions. And there is a long tradition of joint political action between Mali and Algeria.

President Moussa Traore and I discussed the issues about which we feel concerned and which are related to our continent, to its organization, and we, of course, talked about the 21st OAU summit which will be centered on economic problems; and you know how much influence Presidents Chadli and Traore had on this new approach to African problems which gives priority to economic problems.

We did not only talk about the forthcoming summit, we also discussed the conflicts which, unfortunately, plague our continent: in Chad, southern Africa, and Western Sahara.

I am leaving your beautiful country, beautiful despite the sand storms, convinced that all our discussions, which reviewed Mali-Algeria cooperation in all its aspects, will be profitable and I hope we will continue to work hand in hand during all international meetings. [end recording]

That was Dr Taleb Ibrahimi at the end of his audience with the head of state. The head of the Algerian diplomacy has also held a series of discussions with the ministers of natural resources, health, and finance and commerce, and Minister of State Djibril Diallo. He will be guest at a dinner hosted tonight by Alioune Blondin Beye, his Malian counterpart. He will visit the Selingue Dam tomorrow.

Talks Held With Palestinian Delegation

AB180615 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] A working session took place yesterday afternoon between Mali and a Palestinian delegation headed by Ahmed (Kitri), Yassir 'Arafat's special adviser. [passage indistinct] Ahmed (Kitri), who arrived in our country on Friday, has already visited the Baguinda rice zone and left this morning for Silingue to visit the dam.

NIGERIA

Delegation To Attend OPEC Meeting in Geneva

AB170937 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] A Nigerian delegation leaves Lagos today for Geneva to attend a 2-day meeting of the Export Monitoring Council of OPEC beginning on Tuesday. The minister of petroleum and energy, Professor Tam David-West, is leading the delegation.

The meeting is to work out an agreement with a group of international auditors engaged by OPEC to design a format for reporting crude oil production, export, and sales. Nigeria will represent the African region at the Geneva meeting.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Ministerial Executive Council of the organization scheduled for Tuesday in Geneva has been postponed. A new date has not been fixed for the meeting.

Hungarian Ambassador Cites Aid to Country

AB151745 Lagos NAN in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Lagos, March 15 (NAN) — Hungary has supplied equipment and machinery worth about 150 million naira in the past 10 years to Nigeria, its ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Jozsef Bende, said in Lagos yesterday. Mr Bende, who was addressing newsmen [words indistinct] activities marking the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the country from German forces in 1945, said that Hungary was currently executing an N18 million contract for the supply of equipment to junior secondary schools in Nigeria. He said that the project was part of the N110 million contract awarded to Britian, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Hungary by the Federal Government for the supply of equipment to junior secondary schools throughout the federation.

The ambassador said that arrangements had been concluded for Hungary to deliver to Nigeria machinery for a flour mill and other agricultural equipment. The ambassador said that in the past 17 years, about 200 Nigerians had been awarded scholarships by Hungary to study in Hungarian institutions of higher learning.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Meets With Gorbachev in Moscow

MB151536 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has been received in Moscow by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU.

At the meeting the two leaders discussed relations of friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of Angola and the Soviet Union as well as the international situation, particularly the situation on the African Continent.

President Jose Eduarod dos Santos was expected to return yesterday afternoon from Moscow where he attended the funeral of Kostantin Chernenko, former general secretary of the CPSU, who died last Sunday.

In Moscow Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos also held meetings with Samora Machel, chairman of the Frelimo party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and Rashid Kawawa, general secretary of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi of Tanzania, with whom he reviewed issues relating to cooperation between that party and the MPLA-Labor Party and the situation in southern Africa.

Returns 15 Mar

MB151952 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos returned to Angola this morning from Moscow, where he attended the funeral of the late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko.

Interior Minister To Meet Crocker in Cape Verde

MB171235 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] An Angolan delegation led by Alexandre Rodrigues "Kito," interior minister, is in the Republic of Cape Verde to hold talks with U.S. officials on the situation in southern Africa.

In the Cape Verdean capital, the Angolan official will meet Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, within the framework of the Angolan efforts to implement UN Resolution No 435/78 on the Namibian question.

The last contact between officials of the two countries was held in Luanda. The American side was represented by Frank Wisner, Chester Crocker's deputy, who concluded a recent visit to South Africa.

Van Dunem on Southern Africa, Ties With USSR

MB160938 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Afonso van Dunem, the Angolan minister of external relations, has accused South Africa of not fulfilling the Lusaka pledges undertaken with Angola and the Nkomati Accord signed on 16 March 1984 with Mozambique because it continues to support the puppet gangsters in order to destabilize the two countries politically, economically, and militarily. Speaking in an interview given to NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY in Moscow, Comrade Afonso van Dunem said that the situation in southern Africa has been tense since 1975, the time when Angola and Mozambique gained their independence, and continues to worsen further today in view of South Africa's undeclared war through UNITA and Mozambique National Resistance bandits.

Answering a question on how he would evaluate the Angolan proposal aimed at normalizing the situation in southern Africa, the Angolan external relations minister said that Angolan policy in that regard remained unchanged, demanding the application of the UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78. We are against the policy of linkage [preceeding word in English], the Angolan official said, adding that the Angolan administraiton, through Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, had presented a proposal to the UN secretary general containing ways and means of overcoming the problems brought about by the policy of linkage, and Angola expected to receive support from the international community for its proposals in order to quickly overcome the difficulties in the application of the UN Security Council Resolution No 435 for the independence of Namibia.

On the Angolan-Soviet relations, Comrade Afonso van Dunem said that they were excellent and dated back to the time of the struggle for liberation and were based on just principles of equality and solidarity. Every year that passes, the USSR has demonstrated that it is a friendly country had has contributed to enable us to rapidly overcome economic dependence, poverty, and backwardness, he added.

The minister also said that it did not come as a surprise when Mikhail Gorbachev, the new CPSU general secretary, pointed out that the USSR would continue to support the countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. On the contrary, he was reaffirming the policy of solidarity which has always characterized the relationship between the USSR and other states.

BOTSWANA

Masire Says RSA Threat Taken Seriously

MB170532 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that Botswana took recent threats of invasion by South Africa and Bophuthatswana homeland very seriously because South Africa had in the past carried out attacks on Lesotho. Dr Masire was speaking in an interview with a journalist of the French newspaper, *LE MONDE*, recently. However, Dr Masire said that there was nothing Botswana could do since South Africa's might is more than Botswana could handle.

He reiterated that Botswana had never allowed freedom fighters to operate from its territory and that South Africa was aware of this. As part of the international community and as a signatory to the Geneva Convention, Botswana was bound to receive refugees, the president emphasized.

Dr Masire further told the French journalist that Botswana was opposed to apartheid because it is inhuman and added that recent reforms for urban blacks announced by the Pretoria regime did not mean much. He expressed the hope that South Africa would one day be one state benefiting all its people instead of sending blacks to bantustans.

On relations with the Bophuthatswana bantustan, Dr Masire said that ethnically the Batswana were one people but that politically they were divided by borders. Dr Masire said that Botswana worked with the bantustan only as part of South Africa. He said that in case of such as the damming of the river which flows into the Gaborone dam, Botswana has had to deal with Bophuthatswana because South Africa always sent Botswana back to the province instead of the capital.

COMOROS

3 Killed, Opposition Leader Arrested in Coup Attempt

AB160738 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, March 16 (AFP) — Three members of Comoran President Ahmed Abdallah's presidential guard were killed and the Secretary-General of the opposition Democratic Front, Mustapha Said Sheikh, was arrested as a result of last week's abortive coup in the Indian Ocean Archipelago, a Front spokesman told AFP here Friday.

He said 29 members of the guard had been arrested in the coup bid, which was reportedly mounted by a section of the guard in alliance with some civilians. The Front was not involved, he said, but the episode would now give President Abdallah an excuse to try to crush the Front and to step up repression.

Mr Abdallah returned home Friday after a two-week visit to France, a few hours after acting President Ali Bazi Selim announced the plot had been foiled.

President Plays Down Attempt

LD151744 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] After yesterday's revelations on Comoros radio, by the minister acting for the president of the republic, Ahmed Abdallah, on an abortive coup thwarted exactly a week ago, there is talk about the magnitude of this action, which only seems to have involved a few soldiers belonging to the presidential guard, a special unit mainly in charge of the head of state's security and which is always backed up by some 30 mercenaries, mostly French. President Ahmed Abdallah, who was staying in France and with whom we were able to make contact this morning a few minutes before his departure on a pilgrimage to Mecca, plays down this coup even though he recognises that 22 people were arrested, adding that they were, furthermore, put out of action before being able to undertake any sort of counteraction. My guard is totally faithful, the Comorian president said in this exclusive interview given to Patrice Biancone.

[Begin Abdallah recording] There was no coup attempt. There was an attempt to do wrong. There are drugs addicts in the Comoros who are well-known and protected by people here. These drug addicts who are in the Comoros, they might have drugged a few people, (?people) taken from my guard. Those who are in the Comoros, those who are left-wing, or extreme left-wing, or extreme right-wing, always try to destabilize the regime, which I strongly condemned because the Comorian regime is stable. What I also contest is that my guard (?tried) to take advantage of my departure. This is not my guard. They are drug addicts, whose names are known. They have been judged, be they guards or civilians. I trust the Comorian people, I trust my friends there, I trust my guard, I trust the Army, the gendarmerie, I trust all those who are in the Comoros. I can go where I am going to go without any risk or peril. [end recording]

Then, the Comorian president also wanted to deny the rumors around a possible worsening of relations between France and the Comoros, in particular because of the stumbling block of the Mayotte issue, and also perhaps because of the development of relations between the Comoros and the Republic of South Africa. On this, President Abdallah is not happy either about what is being said on his country:

[Begin recording] [Abdallah] This is a shame, we have very good relations with France. They have never been as good as now.

[Biancone] Even on the issue of Mayotte?

[Abdallah] The issue of Mayotte. We are not New Caledonia. We have never used assegais, we have never taken rifles. There is talk about the war of [words indistinct]. I have always said [words indistinct] energetically, that is to say that relations between France and the Comoros are at the lowest level, then France and the Comoros [words indistinct]. I have been asked about Mayotte. This is a fact which exists and I have never accepted that Mayotte should belong to France, and I shall never accept it and no one in the Comoros will, but this will not prevent me from being what we are. And we have had these good relations ever since, since, since — today things are going well. This is what I had to tell you, this is what I wanted to forcefully deny [as heard]. [end recording]

This interview was given to Patrice Biancone. For his part, in Moroni this morning, too, the French ambassador in the Comoros, Alain Deschamps, said he was surprised and shocked by indications given on our station whereby relations between France and the Comoros are allegedly not fair. The diplomat was, furthermore, summoned this morning by the Comoran foreign minister, who also expressed concern at this information.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Meets Soviet Peace Committee Delegation

MB141851 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says that he is immensely encouraged that the new Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, has taken steps to begin negotiations with the United States to reduce nuclear and other arms of mass destruction. Addressing the visiting 3-man Soviet Peace Committee delegation in Maseru today, Dr Jonathan said it was also commendable that the Soviet Peace Committee was so heavily involved in spreading peace all over the world. He added that to the Basotho and other small nations, peace is a matter of life and death, because their prosperity can only be guaranteed in an atmosphere of peace.

Dr Jonathan said it was very important for relations between the Soviet Peace Committee and the Lesotho Peace and Solidarity Committee to be strengthened, and that closer cooperation had to be fostered. The prime minister said that Basotho in general expect that relations between the Soviet Union and Lesotho should not be confined to the levels of government but should also spread to cover other areas of human interaction.

In his reply, the leader of the Soviet Peace Committee delegation, Mr Izzat Klychev, who is a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said Lesotho's struggle for independence, which is made difficult by South Africa, is an example not only for African countries, but developing countries all over the world.

Mr Klychev said it is a fact that 12 percent of the nuclear arms stockpiled in the world are sufficient to obliterate all life on earth. This is the reason, he added, why the Soviet people attach such significance to the preservation of world peace. He expressed the hope that the relations that established with the Lesotho Peace and Solidarity Committee will develop even further, for the benefit of the people of Lesotho and the Soviet Union.

Mr Klychev, who is also chairman of the Peace Committee of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic and a member of the presidium of the Soviet Peace Committee, was accompanied by Prof (B. Davidson), division chief of the Institute of World History and a member of the Soviet Peace Committee, and Mr Boris Makarenko, a member of the delegation.

They left Lesotho today after their 5-day visit.

New Party Advocates Diplomatic Ties With RSA

MB151543 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1044 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Maseru, March 15, SAPA — Lesotho would establish diplomatic relations with South Africa and end relations with communist nations if the newly established National Independent Party [NIP] ousted the prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, at the coming general elections.

The party manifesto, published in Maseru today, said the party needed peaceful and neighbourly relations between Lesotho and South Africa.

The NIP would also terminate all ties with communist nations, said the manifesto, which was announced by the party president and former cabinet minister, Mr Anthony Manyeli.

Communism was "against the tradition, culture and religious way of life of the Basotho nation, and fought against Christianity," the manifesto said.

The NIP would establish diplomatic relations with South Africa, the only country with which Lesotho had trade relations. These relations would be strengthened.

There was also no other country where Basotho lived and worked in such large numbers as in South Africa.

Lesotho derived a wide range of benefits, including the improvement of the country's economy through tourism traffic, from South Africa, the manifesto added.

Although Chief Jonathan this week announced the commencement of voter registration, an election day, expected to be in the middle of this year, has not been set so far.

Maseru on Anniversary of Nkomati Accord

MB150649 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "Reflections: The Nkomati Accord"]

[Text]Saturday, 16 March, is the first anniversary of the signing of the Nkomati Accords by the leaders of South Africa and Mozambique. It says much for these accords that both parties to the ceremony at Nkomati in March 1984 show none of the fanfare that accompanied the attachment of the signatures of the current president of South Africa and the president of Mozambique to an agreement that was enthusiastically heralded to usher a new era of peace in southern Africa by the white spokesmen of South Africa.

Their claims were treated at the time with some skepticism in knowledgeable circles in Lesotho, tempered, hopeful attitudes among South Africa's friends in the Western camp, and outright ridicule by most of Africa. The immediate outcome of the Nkomati events was untold pressures on Lesotho and Botswana to follow suit and sign similarly worded security pacts with Pretoria.

Lesotho, for its part, made it abundantly clear that it could find no basis for such an agreement with South Africa, and that exisiting arrangements between the two countries were adequate and had advanced mutual interests within the framework of satisfactory neighborly relations. Botswana took a similar view, and firmly stated that it perceived no additional advantages from an Nkomati-type agreement between itself and South Africa.

With regard to the Nkomati Accord, the view of government has always been clear. Government declared within the councils of the OAU, on whose agenda the issue has frequently been inscribed, that it did not consider it within its competence to pass judgment on bilateral matters between Mozambique and South Africa, and that, in any event, Lesotho sincerely hoped that the sister state of Mozambique would derive benefit from the interests that motivated it to sign the accord. The view did not preclude government's clear perception that Lesotho's interests would be affected, as later events proved on the issue of Lesotho's transit corridors.

It is instructive to take a close look at the Nkomati Accord. It has a total of 11 articles. Of the main operative articles, the provisions of Article 1, Article 2, Article 5, and Article 9 are the most significant. In these articles, commitments are spelled out on noninterference in internal affairs, avoidance of land, sea, and air attacks on each other, acts of sabotage, unwarranted concentration of forces in areas contiguous to international boundaries, assistance to armed forces of other states, and, in Article 3, (?referred to) 13 specific actions by other states, governments, foreign military forces, organizations, individuals who plan or prepare what are described as acts of violence, terrorism, and aggression.

The article prohibits the organization on each other's territory of irregular forces or armed bands, including mercenaries, the elimination of their training bases, places of shelter, accommodation, armaments depots, command posts, communication facilities, radio installations, broadcasting stations, and clandestine or unofficial broadcasts.

In Article 5, the two parties further commit themselves to prohibition within their territories of acts of propaganda and, Article 9, the establishment of a joint security commission.

In recent months, the leader of Mozambique, President Samora Machel, has repeatedly accused South Africa of bad faith and of nonrespect of its commitments to the Nkomati Accord. It would appear that South Africa's behavior, in terms of Article 3, is the main bone of contention.

The following excerpt from an article written by Paul Fauvet and the director of AIM, the MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY, Carlos Cordoso, sheds illuminating light on the complaint of Mozambique. They state much of the continued banditry in Mozambique is due to the growing number of violations of the Nkomati Accord from South African soil. Inside Mozambique the belief is growing both in official and unofficial circles that South Africa has not respected the accord because it saw it as a mere tactic, a first step in a [word indistinct] plan, the goal of which was to force Mozambique to accept power sharing with the MNR bandits.

The two writers also have said that the recent Pretoria commitment to clamp down on the MNR activities is now being interpreted in Mozambique as an attempt by Pretoria to pull the wool over the eyes of international public opinion by creating a false image for the impending political agreement between Mozambique and the bandits.

They also say that the Mozambican authorities had little confidence in the South African Government during the 1982-83 negotiations that finally led to Nkomati. The South African Government's behavior after Nkomati can only lead to a hardening of this mistrust on the part of the Mozambican Government. The Pretoria regime has shown that it is not a serious partner in an agreement of this nature, the two disillusioned writers conclude.

Writing in the South African *RAND DAILY MAIL* of 12 March on what he sees as some aspects of the gloomy commentary on the Nkomati Accord, Benjamin Pogrund says that only the brave or the foolish now drive outside Mozambique's cities without armed escorts. A danger of ambush and death at the hands of the MNR has become too great.

This then is the situation a bare 12 months after the signing of the security accord between Mozambique and South Africa at Nkomati. Maputo now claims that the accord was nothing but a South African charade to creat opportunities for the accommodation of what it says are South African-based and South African-supported terrorists, the MNR, whose goal is to overthrow the Frelimo government in Maputo.

If there is substance to Mozambique's claims that MNR operate from South African soil, is organized from its territory, and is receiving military hardware from allies in South Africa, then there is sufficient reason for the curent bitterness by Mozambicans about Nkomati. For the people of Mozambique the agreement is quite clearly a still born child, and even more clearly there is no reason for celebration.

Those politicians in Lesotho whose voices were screaming in favor of an Nkomati-type of accord should pause and reflect deeply about where they really wanted to lead this nation. The first anniversary of Nkomati should be a solitary lesson to all Basotho. They should know that in the styles of men truly great, beneath the ink of signatures of agreements should lie concords of minds and not charades.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Sends Congratulations to Gorbachev

MB151121 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Field Marshal Samora Machel, the chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, has sent a message of congratulations to Mikhail Gorbachev on his appointment to the post of general secretary of the CPSU. In the message, President Samora Machel points out that the appointment showed the immense confidence that the CPSU militants and the Soviet people have in Mikhail Gorbachev. We are convinced that current international issues, particularly the imperialist threat of an unprecedented arms race that may result in a nuclear holocaust, will be given your utmost attention in order to create a climate of peace and security for all progressive humanity, the message from the Mozambican head of state emphasizes.

Chissano Sees MNR Sabotage as 'Vain Attempts'

EA171642 Dakar PANA in English 1455 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Maputo, 17 March (AIM/PANA) — Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, has described the sabotage of the electricity transmission lines from South Africa to Maputo as "vain attempts" against Mozambique's independence by the country's enemies.

Mr Chissano was speaking to co-operative farmers in a Maputo suburb yesterday at the start of the run-up to the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Mozambican independence on 25th June. The initial celebrations take the form of weeks dedicated to meetings and discussions on a number of themes. The first week is concerned with the land and agricultural policy.

In his speech, however, Mr Chissano referred to the activities of the bandits of the "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR), who on Friday (15th March) night sabotaged the power supply to Maputo for the sixth time this year. The minister scoffed at this type of sabotage. "Now the bandits are making these petty cuts in our electicity supplies and are presenting it as a threat", he said. During Mozambique's war against Portuguese colonialism, "we fought without electircity, and we still won", he said.

In a dialogue in the Shangaan language (the most widely spoken language in southern Mozambique), Mr Chissano explained why Mozambique was currently experiencing serious shortages. He also spoke of the benefits that independence had brought to the rural population, particularly through the abolition of forced labour and the forced cultivation of cash crops. Would those who complained at having to queue up for their sugar ration welcome the re-introduction of forced labour, he asked. "Ten years is not a long time", said the minister, "even if we don't take into consideration the destabilization and natural disasters of which we have been the victims. There are other African countries who have been independent longer than us, where living conditions are relatively worse than they are here."

During the discussions leading up to the independence anniversary, said Mr Chissano, the opportunity would be taken "to discuss in concrete terms what we have achieved and disprove incorrect analyses of our situation."

At the end of the meeting, the co-operative farmers told Mr Chissano that despite MNR banditry they were determined to continue their work "with our feet planted firmly in the soil and our hoes grasped in our hands".

Maputo Cites R.F. Botha Statement on MNR Connections

MB171139 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof Botha admitted yesterday that South African troops have connections with the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] terrorists in Mozambique. The South African forces involved are reported to have been stationed close to the Mozambican border.

According to Mr Botha, the South African Defense Ministry has taken action against these troops. Earlier this year, the South African authorities categorically denied that members of the Armed Forces were involved in support for the MNR terrorists.

Mr Botha said his government had uncovered a gang of [word indistinct] counterfeiters with MNR connections. He said the gang had forged huge quantities of South African rand notes and U.S. dollars which were used to pay [words indistinct].

Renamo Denies Allegations Made by R.F. Botha

MB171014 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The BBC has quoted a Mozambique National Resistance movement spokesman in Lisbon as saying that allegations made against the movement by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, are an invention aimed at discrediting the organization.

Mr Botha said yesterday that Renamo was being funded by an international group of businessmen who wanted to turn Mozambique into a private economic preserve. He said the businessmen were hostile to both President Samora Machel and the South African Government.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha on Military Intervention in Mozambique

MB170943 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The South African state president, Mr P.W. Botha, is reported by the Johannesburg newspaper, the *RAND DAILY MAIL*, to have said in an interview that South Africa is prepared to consider military intervention in Mozambique on merit, and if asked publicly by the West and the Mozambique Government.

The newspaper said he was reacting to reports from London that both the United States and Britain were in favor of South African intervention in Mozambique. They thought that this was necessary to prop up the government of President Samora Machel against the Mozambique National Resistance movement and to rescue the Nkomati Accord.

The report went on to say that any South African military assistance would have to be specifically linked to protection of Cahora Bassa power lines and the protection of South African tourist and business interest in Mozambique.

The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said on his return to Pretoria from Maputo that the South African Government was still doing its utmost to bring about a cease-fire and peace in Mozambique. Mr Botha referred to various matters and also to the pressure being exerted on the Nkomati Accord at present.

He also said that South Africa and Mozambique are determined to uncover underhand and devious methods being used by some quarters to upset the treaty. He told a news conference in Pretoria that, in a further bid to strengthen the accord, South Africa has undertaken to transfer or remove altogether troops based on the Mozambican border who may be sympathetic to Renamo's cause.

Steps would also be taken to dismiss a pro-Renamo translator who had been employed by the South African Defense Force. Mr Botha and the South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, said they believed that Renamo could never be the victor in the war, which has been waged since 1975.

Mr Botha added that although South Africa's relations with Renamo were strained, South Africa would continue to consult with the Frelimo government and Renamo.

The minister of foreign affairs also confirmed that South Africa and Mozambique had recently agreed to install radar along the border to spot aircraft crossing the border without proper clearance.

He said that in the short time in which the radar had been in operation, two aircraft had been traced flying over Mozambican territory without clearance. One was from Mozambique and the other had been from Swaziland to Mozambique. But, he said, there was still concern about a third aircraft, which had taken off from South Africa's eastern Transvaal Province and had flown to Inhaca Island off Maputo. This flight was still being investigated.

R.F. Botha Comments on Financing of Renamo

Counterfeiting in Johannesburg

MB161054 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1046 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Pretoria, March 16, SAPA — Part of an international network of support for anti-government rebels in Mozambique has been traced by police to banknote counterfeiting operation in Johannesburg, the foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, said today.

Mr Botha told a press conference in Pretoria, marking the first anniversary of the Nkomati Accord, that the Mozambican Government had at no stage accused South Africa of violating the non-aggression pact.

However, he added, South Africa was investigating allegations that assistance to the rebel Mozambican Resistance Movement (Renamo) was still emanating from South African territory.

"They (the Mozambican Government) are very suspicious that Renamo is still being supplied with arms and equipment from South Africa, Malawi, even Kenya and other African countries," Mr Botha said.

South Africa police, following up the Mozambican allegations, had uncovered the Johannesburg counterfeiting operation, which was also apparently responsible for printing large volumes of anti-Frelimo propaganda, Mr Botha said.

Two of the main counterfeiters, whose fake R50 and U.S.100 dollar notes were allegedly used in smuggling deals, had escaped to a European country, which Mr Botha did not identify. Several other people had been arrested and would appear in court soon.

Mr Botha said the police had seized large amounts of counterfeit money and propaganda sheets. The metal imprint for the fake dollars, however, had not been recovered and was possibly still being used.

South Africa would consider instituting extradition proceedings for the two counterfeiters who had fled the country, Mr Botha added.

A further source of Renamo's finance were bankers, financiers and businessmen "with large political and economic interests in Africa, Latin America and Europe," Mr Botha said.

The financiers, whom he refused to identify, were hostile to the governments of South Africa and Mozambique, Mr Botha said, adding: "I have no illusions about their motives. They are apparently determined to attempt to turn Mozambique into their private economic preserve."

Mr Botha said various other governments knew the identity and activities of these people.

"My problem is to get those other governments to do what we are doing and that is to stop sources of supply and assistance to Renamo...and stop accusing South Africa," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha, who recently returned from a meeting with Frelimo officials in Maputo, said both signatories to the Nkomati Accord were committed to restoring peace in Mozambique and uncovering "underhand and devious methods" being used to upset the treaty.

In a further bid to strengthen the accord, South Africa has also undertaken to transfer or remove altogether troops based on the Mozambican border who might be sympathetic to Renamo's cause, according to Mr Botha.

Steps would also be taken to dismiss a pro-Renamo translator who had been employed by the SADF [South African Defense Force].

Mr Botha said although Frelimo had told him that violence in their country had increased in the past year and Renamo was acting over a wider area, it was highly unlikely South Africa would send in troops or police to support Mozambican defence forces.

He mentioned, however, the possibility of a force of security personnel assembled by the two countries, and maybe also Portugal to protect the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme, roads and railways.

Mr Botha and the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, both said they believed Renamo would never be the victors in the Mozambican war, waged since 1975.

And although South Africa's present relations with Renamo were "rather bad", Mr Botha said, South Africa would continue to consult between the Frelimo government and the rebels.

Involvement in Smuggling

MB161230 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpt] A gang which has close links with the Mozambican movement, Renamo, and is involved in the counterfeiting of South African 50 rand notes and American 100 dollar notes has been exposed in Johannesburg by the South African police. This has been announced in Pretoria by the minister of foreign affairs. Mr Pik Botha, who has just returned from Mozambique where he informed the government of the activities of the gang.

Mr Botha told a news conference that the gang was also allegedly responsible for the printing of a large quantitiy of Renamo propaganda material. Two of the leading suspects, he said, had fled to Europe, and the South African government was considering how to go about applying for the extradition of suspects. However, several other members of the gang had been arrested and would appear in court in Johannesburg shortly.

Mr Botha said that the counterfeit money with the face value of millions of rands as well anti-Frelimo propaganda had been discovered in the gang's hideout. The plates used to produce the notes had also been found, but not the plates for the dollar bills. This information, said Mr Botha, had been conveyed to the Mozambican Government during his visit of the past week and it has been highly appreciated. The two governments would now get together to decide which of the details should be disclosed to the European countries as well as the American Government.

In the course of the investigation, evidence had emerged suggesting that certain individuals attached to Renamo were responsible for the large-scale smuggling of diamonds, precious stones, prawns, and ivory from Mozambique to South Africa and other countries in southern Africa. In some instances the counterfeit currency had been used to pay for the contraband.

Mr Botha said there were indications that aircraft were being used to remove the contraband from Mozambique, and in one case an American-registered aircraft had been used. He said the contraband served as a source for the financing of Renamo activities. The possibility could not be excluded that arms were being carried into Mozambique on the same aircraft.

Renamo Activities Spreading

MB170941 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha says the war in Mozambique appears to be intensfying. The foreign minister told a news conference in Pretoria yesterday that it seems the Mozambique National Resistance movement, Renamo, was operating over an increasingly large area and that attacks were becoming more frequent.

[Begin Botha recording] It is a vast territory, it is sparsely populated, large parts are not really habitable. It is difficult to get correct information. We get conflicting reports. What I do know is that the Mozambique Government itself told us, only on Thursday, that the violence has increased. That we know. The violence has increased. They say they are now in a worse position than a year ago. [end recording]

Top-Level Talks Held With Botswana on ANC

MB151315 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The government is holding top-level talks with Botswana in a bid to stop ANC infiltration into South Africa. That is the news from South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Mr Botha was reacting to a statement by Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange in Parliament yesterday that the ANC had planned a campaign of attacks in the northern Cape and western Transvaal.

Meanwhile, police from South Africa and Bophuthatswana are combing dense bush and farmland near the western Transvaal border with Botswana. They are searching for three suspected guerrillas who killed a storekeeper and his wife, and looted their shop.

Heunis Calls for Unity in Face of Threats

MB170526 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, says a greater unity among the people of South Africa is needed more now than ever before to show the world that the country will not be intimidated by boycotts and threats.

Addressing a public meeting in Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, he said there was no instance in the world to prove that any country with problems comparable to South Africa's had been able to find an instant success formula. He said South Africa would not be dictated to by other countries and would not do anything simply in order to meet their demands.

Mr Heunis said that the unity needed in South Africa would first have to be achieved among the whites so that they might be in a better position to work for the attainment of the rights of others.

Viljoen Cites Blacks' Resistance to Change

MB170951 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of cooperation, development, education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, says political policy factors such as homeland-oriented education, have among other things led to a backlog among blacks with regard to decisionmaking, participation, and responsibility for their own education.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Vaal Triangle workshop of the Suid Afrikaanse Akademie [South African Academy] at Vereeniging, Dr Vijoen said factors pertaining to attitudes such as resistence to change had also helped to keep blacks back.

He said the government's reform initiatives were being adversely affected by the shift in the function of education to that of political resistance, strikes, boycotts, and the mustering of youths for revolution.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Says Assassination Plot Foiled

MB181020 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 18 Mar 85 p 1

[Excerpt] The government has foiled a plot to assassinate him, the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, announced at the weekend.

Addressing a Tinkhundla [electoral college constituency] meeting on Saturday, Prince Bhekimpi said the plot had been hatched by certain relatives of some 60-day detainees.

He said South African hit-men had been hired to execute him and some members of the Liqoqo (Supreme Council of State).

However, the prime minister did not indicate whether or not the hired gunmen had been called off after the discovery, or whether any arrests would be made.

ZIMBABWE

Diplomatic Ties Established With Argentina

MB151709 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Zimbabwe and Argentina have established diplomatic relations. A joint communique issued by the presidency said the establishment of relations was guided by the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter and on the basis of the freedom of hospitality, noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, and to speak for independence of national integrity. The communique added that the diplomatic relations will be at ambassadorial level with effect from the beginning of this month.

Government Considers Giving More Power to Chiefs

MB170553 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the government is considering the introduction of legislation which will give additional powers to chiefs. Addressing more than 200 chiefs in Harare yesterday, Comrade Robert Mugabe said the government is considering making chiefs presiding officers in primary courts. He said this follows complaints raised during the meeting that the chiefs had been stripped of their traditional powers by not being allowed to preside over the courts.

The chiefs also expressed concern over the legal age of majority act and the law of inheritance. Comrade Mugabe promised to look into these complaints and said a decision will be communicated to the chiefs shortly. The prime minister said the chiefs will also be included in the village and ward development committees to enable them to make decisions which affect their communities. He promised to provide chiefs with enough security in dissident affected areas, such as Nkayi, Gwanda, and Tsholotsho.

President Returns From Chernenko Funeral

MB171207 Harare Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, has arrived back home from the USSR where he attended the funeral of the late president of the USSR, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko. Comrade Banana was met at the Harare international airport by the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe; the acting president, Comrade Nolan Makombe; service chiefs; cabinet ministers; and members of the diplomatic corps. Comrade Banana was accompanied to the USSR by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, and the minister of transport, Comrade Herbert Ushewokunze.

Kangai Calls on Youths To Work Closely With Police

MB180614 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of industry and technology, Comrade Kumbirai Kangai, has called on the youths in Manicaland to work closely with the police in order to apprehend elements who disrupt peace in the province. Addressing a rally at Chilenge business center, about 50 km east of Mutare, yesterday, Comrade Kangai said the youths should report all lawbreakers to the police. He warned dissidents that the government is capable of wiping them out completely.

Comrade Kangai said after the June general election, the government will continue to give economic power to the majority. The minister also said the government has demonstrated its sincere commitment to reconciliation by forgiving people like Ian Smith and the UANC [United African National Council] leader, Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

ZANU-PF Officials Deplore Opposition Tactics

MB180655 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] A top ZANU-PF official in the Harare Province has expressed concern over some people who are appointed to executive positions in the public sector under the auspices of the ruling party, but who preach anti-ZANU-PF slogans. The deputy secretary for production in the province, Comrade (Noel Chaya), told a rally at Coronation shopping center in Greendale yesterday that there is need to identify people with a party commitment. Comrade (Chaya) also outlined some of the requirements for the transition from a mass party to a vanguard party. He said dedicated and committed party members should form the upper echelon of the cell, branch, district, and provincial executive. Comrade (Chaya) appealed for harmony between domestic workers and their employers, adding that there should be no class struggle in Zimbabwe.

The ruling party's secretary for the province, Comrade Joseph Macheka, told another rally at Ruwa that the massive drought relief program launched in the past 3 years shows the government's concern for the welfare of the masses. He said among the achievements of the government in the past 5 years is the introduction of free education at primary level and the provision of free health services. Comrade Macheka criticized minority parties who have refused the prime minister's hand of reconciliation and have resorted to acts of banditry.